



VIEW FROM THE VALLEY

AUGUST 2026



PAGE 6



A SUMMER IN THE SPOTLIGHT: PERFORMING ARTS SHINE AT WVC

The performing arts took center stage at Wabash Valley College this summer, giving participants opportunities to experience theatre and music through hands-on summer camps. From preparing an entire musical production in just five days to exploring songwriting, instruments and even guitar repair, the summer offered participants several ways to learn, create and experience the performing arts at WVC.

One highlight was the WVC Summer Theatre Camp, held in collaboration with Missoula Children's Theatre. The camp welcomed 30 participants between the ages of 6 and 14 who worked together throughout the week to prepare and perform the musical The Frog Prince.

PAGE 12



UPCOMING EVENTS

SEPTEMBER

- 2 Soccer vs. Lincoln Trail College**
Soccer Field, 6 p.m.
- Volleyball at Frontier CC, 6:30**
- Bonfire with S'mores**
Soccer Field, Following Game
- 4 Soccer at Southwest TN CC, TBA**
- Volleyball at John A. Logan, 6:30**
- 6 Soccer at Dyersburg State CC, 12**
- 8 Volleyball at Kaskaskia, 6:30**
- 9 Soccer at Parkland College, 1**
- 11-12 Volleyball Tournament at Lake Land**
- 13 Soccer at Lincoln Trail College, 1**
- 14 Volleyball at Rend Lake, 6:30**
- 16 Soccer at Lewis & Clark, 3**
- Volleyball vs. Lincoln Trail College**
Spencer Sports Center, 6:30
- 21 Volleyball vs. Shawnee**
Spencer Sports Center, 6:30
- 23 Volleyball vs. Southwestern**
Spencer Sports Center, 6:30
- 25 Mt. Carmel High School Parade**
- Volleyball at Vincennes, 5**
- 26 Soccer vs. Lewis & Clark**
Soccer Field, 4
- Volleyball at Danville Tri-Match**
- 28 Volleyball at Southeastern, 6:30**
- 29 Soccer vs. Southwestern**
Soccer Field, 6
- 30 Volleyball vs. Lake Land**
Spencer Sports Center, 6:30
- Meet the Warrior Night**
Bass Fishing & Archery teams will offer demonstrations, Pig sausage and wiches sold as a fundraiser.

With only five days to take a production from its beginning stages to the final performances, campers spent the week learning their roles and preparing to take the stage. The experience gave participants an opportunity to be directly involved in putting together a theatrical production while working toward a shared goal with the rest of the cast.

The camp was directed by Dennis Stroughmatt with assistance from Luke Bunting, Mikayla Beck, Tim Young and Raegan Stroughmatt. Raegan Stroughmatt also served as the piano accompanist for the production of *The Frog Prince*.

Throughout the week, campers participated in more than rehearsals for the production. Workshops included behind-the-scenes activities, improvisation, choreography and dance, artwork and more, introducing participants to different elements of theatre and the work that goes into bringing a production to the stage.

Preparing a musical in five days presented campers with a challenge, but each participant was given an important role and worked throughout the week to prepare for the final production. According to Stroughmatt, the experience challenged the campers while also teaching them important values and work ethic as they prepared for their roles.

"The kids enjoyed the camp as all got to participate with important roles that challenged them and taught them important values and work ethic in preparation for their roles," Stroughmatt said. "Every one of them got to shine, and it was written on their faces. Smiles, smiles, smiles."

For Stroughmatt, seeing each camper have an opportunity to participate and learn was an important part of the experience. While the five-day schedule made for a busy week for both campers and staff, seeing the finished production and what participants accomplished made the work worthwhile.

"I was personally excited to see all of them get to participate and learn so much," Stroughmatt said. "It was a busy week, and all of the kids and staff were tired. But it was worth it."

At the end of the week, campers had the opportunity to put what they had learned into action as *The Frog Prince* came to life on the WVC stage. The



performances gave participants the chance to share the result of their work with family members, friends and others who came to see the production.

The experience also received positive feedback from parents and grandparents. Stroughmatt said many commented on how well the camp was presented and how much their camper experienced during the week, and many asked whether the camp would be offered again.

The WVC Summer Theatre Camp was underwritten with support from the Wabash Valley Arts Council, Doug Raber State Farm of Albion and St. John the Baptist Episcopal Church of Mt. Carmel.

The theatre camp was just one part of a busy summer for WVC Performing Arts. Along with the week spent bringing *The Frog Prince* to the stage, the 2026 WVC Summer Music Camp provided another opportunity for participants to explore their interests, develop musical skills and experience something new.

This year's music camp included a variety of experiences designed to give participants different ways to engage with music. Stroughmatt described the 2026 camp as one that raised the bar in camper experience, class offerings and musical achievement.

"It was fantastic. The 2026 edition of the WVC Summer Music Camp raised the bar of camper experience, class offerings, and musical achievement," Stroughmatt said. "This year, with the addition of Chris Vallillo's 'Guitar Set-Up and Repair' class, 'Song Writing' with Bill Passalacqua, the jam session, and more student engagement in unique instruments like cello and pedal steel guitar, it was a special year for our campers."

The range of offerings gave campers an opportunity to experience music from several different perspectives. Chris Vallillo's Guitar Set-Up and Repair class introduced another side of working with an instrument, while Bill Passalacqua's Song Writing class brought the creative process behind music into the camp experience.

Campers also engaged with instruments such as cello and pedal steel guitar, adding to the variety of musical experiences offered throughout the camp. Providing opportunities to explore different areas of music is part of an effort to keep the camp experience fresh and give participants new possibilities to discover.

One of the memorable moments of the week came



outside the regular class offerings during a special Monday night camp event. Campers had the opportunity to join a jam session and experience making music alongside others in a different setting.

"It's hard to pin down just one specific moment as there were so many, but it was heartwarming and fun to see some of our campers join the 'jam session' on the special Monday night camp event," Stroughmatt said. "There are calls to do another jam session, and sooner than a camp. So, we'll see if we can make that happen."

The response to the jam session reflects one of the larger goals behind the music camp: encouraging participants to engage with music themselves. While learning about an instrument or listening to music can be part of the experience, Stroughmatt hopes campers leave understanding that music is something they can actively take part in.

"It's always my hope, and actually that of all of our instructors, that our campers get energized about music and see that it's not something you just watch or listen to," Stroughmatt said. "I get excited when they put their hand on an instrument and they not only hear it but feel a connection to it."

That connection does not necessarily have to end when camp does. For Stroughmatt, introducing someone to an instrument, helping them become more excited about music or playing even a small role in the beginning of their musical journey can make the experience meaningful beyond the week itself.

"And if the WVC Music Camp was a small part of helping to musically inspire our campers along the way, or possibly even begin their journey in music, either would be one of the most precious things we can hope for," Stroughmatt said.

As one summer camp season comes to a close, attention is already turning toward what future WVC music camps could offer. Rather than repeating the same schedule and experiences each year, Stroughmatt said organizers continually look for ways to introduce something different.

"We are always trying to offer different experiences with our music camps and keep them fresh, and that means not always offering the exact same classes, or even bringing the exact same instructors, every time," Stroughmatt said.





Future plans could also create additional opportunities for participants whose schedules do not allow them to attend an entire camp week. Finding ways to offer experiences for those who may only be available for one or two days is among the possibilities being considered for future camps.

"We are also looking for ways to offer more experiences for those that can only attend, maybe one, or two days, during a camp week," Stroughmatt said. "We will definitely keep people posted as plans come together for next year."

While theatre and music offered two different camp experiences, both gave participants the opportunity to become directly involved in the performing arts. Theatre campers worked together to bring a complete musical to the stage, while music campers explored instruments, songwriting and other ways of making and experiencing music.

From the final performances of *The Frog Prince* to the sounds of campers joining a jam session, the summer brought plenty of activity to WVC Performing Arts. More importantly, it gave participants opportunities to try something new, develop their interests and experience what can happen when they become part of the creative process.

With another summer of theatre and music camps complete, WVC Performing Arts is already looking ahead to future opportunities to bring participants together through theatre, music and the experience of creating something of their own.

WEEKS OF WELCOME RETURNS TO KICK OFF THE FALL SEMESTER

As students return to Wabash Valley College and the fall semester gets underway, there will be plenty happening across campus to help start the new school year. Weeks of Welcome returns Aug. 17-31 with activities designed to bring students together, introduce them to campus resources and organizations, and add a little fun to the first couple of weeks at WVC.

While the activities begin as students arrive on campus, preparation for Weeks of Welcome starts months earlier. Karissa Anderson, who coordinates Weeks of Welcome, said planning begins during the spring semester as ideas are developed for the upcoming school year.

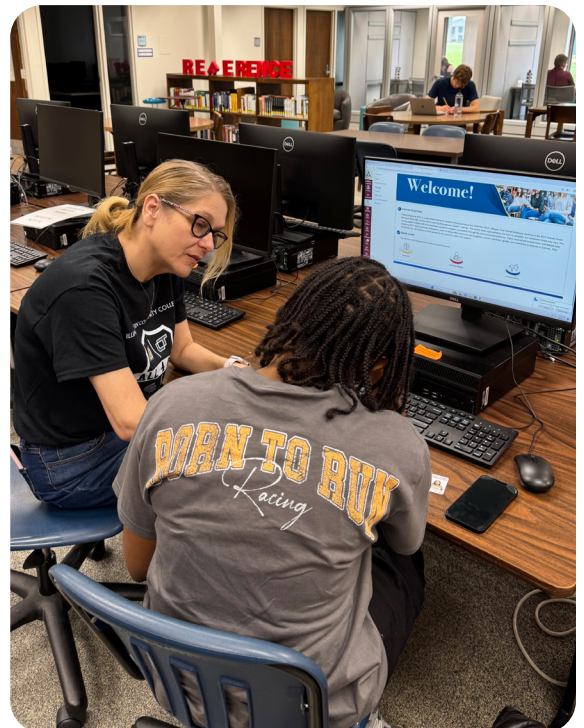
"We try to think of things that will be fun, informative, and interactive for our students," Anderson said.

That planning has resulted in two weeks of activities ranging from informational events and opportunities to get involved to food, games and outdoor activities. At the center of it all is an effort to help students become more engaged with the WVC campus and the people around them.

"The main goal is to get students engaged on Campus," Anderson said. "The events are a great opportunity to talk to other students, have a snack, and learn about what WVC offers for all students."

Weeks of Welcome begins Monday, Aug. 17, with New Student Orientation before continuing with activities throughout the first two weeks of the semester. Students will have an opportunity to learn more about Entrata, Canvas and testing during an informational event in the Learning Commons on Tuesday, Aug. 18.

The first day of classes on Wednesday, Aug. 19, will bring one of the larger activities of Weeks of Welcome with the Outdoor Blast Cookout and Find Your Tribe. Beginning at noon in the Bash Yard, located outside between the Learning Commons and the Campus Store, students can enjoy a free cookout, play lawn games and learn more about the clubs and organizations available at WVC. Find Your Tribe gives students an opportunity to discover different ways to become involved on campus





while meeting others with similar interests.

Activities continue throughout the week with the Entrata and Canvas Crash Course on Thursday, Aug. 20, followed by What's Poppin' Active Minds on Friday, Aug. 21. Students can stop by the Learning Commons for popcorn while learning more about Active Minds.

The second week brings even more opportunities for students to participate. Donut Stress with TRIO SSS kicks off Monday, Aug. 24, with donuts and information about TRIO and how students may qualify for the program. Pizza & Preparation follows Tuesday, Aug. 25, offering students free pizza along with an opportunity to learn how to overcome and deal with exam anxiety.

Wednesday, Aug. 26, gives students two different opportunities to connect and get involved. At noon in the Learning Commons, Brittany Biddle will share 15 tips on how students can be successful in college. Later that afternoon, students can head to Mt. Carmel City Park for pickleball, meet new people and enjoy some time on the court.

Students can continue the fun Thursday, Aug. 27, with Lawn Games on the Amphitheater Lawn. Games will include Connect 4 and cornhole, along with free ice pops.

One event Anderson is particularly looking forward to this year arrives Friday, Aug. 28: Sno Shack. The Sno Shack trailer will be on campus from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the Main Hall parking lot, giving students an opportunity to stop by for a free sno-cone.

Beyond providing something fun to do between classes, Anderson hopes the events make it easier for students to connect with the WVC community early in the semester.

"The events are a great chance to meet other students, as well as Faculty & Staff," Anderson said.

Weeks of Welcome wraps up Monday, Aug. 31, with Quack Attack on the Amphitheater. Students can try their luck at a variety of duck-themed games and have a chance to win prizes, finishing out the first couple of weeks of the semester with another opportunity to spend time with others on campus.

For students who may be hesitant to attend an activity or get involved during the first few weeks, Anderson encourages them to give it a try.

"Join us for snacks, fun, and chances to win prizes!" Anderson said.

From finding a new organization to join and learning about campus resources to simply sharing a snack or playing a game with someone new, Weeks of Welcome provides plenty of opportunities for students to become part of campus life. As WVC begins another school year, the activities are ready to help welcome Warriors back and give new and returning students opportunities to connect with the campus community.


AUGUST 17-31, 2026


17 MONDAY	18 TUESDAY	19 WEDNESDAY	20 THURSDAY	21 FRIDAY
 8:30-1, Student Union	 7:30-4:30 WOW in the Learning Commons Get help with Entrata, Canvas, and Testing	First Day of Classes  FIND YOUR TRIBE 12-2 - Outdoor Blast Cookout & Find Your Tribe Enjoy a free cookout, play lawn games, and check out the clubs & organizations available to you at WVC.	 9-11, Learning Commons Entrata & Canvas Crash Course Get the ins and outs on how you can use and navigate Entrata and Canvas.	 11-1, Learning Commons What's Poppin' Active Minds Join Active Minds for a pop up popcorn bar.
24 MONDAY  8:30-9:30, Science Building Donut Stress with TRIO SSS Find out about TRIO and if you qualify.  6:30, Volleyball vs. Southeastern Illinois College	 12, Learning Commons Pizza & Preparation Enjoy free pizza as you join Jordie Higgason to learn how to overcome and deal with exam anxiety.	 12, Learning Commons Join Brittany Biddle to learn 15 tips on how you can be successful in college.  1-3 PM - Mt. Carmel City Park Play pickleball, meet new people, and have a great time on and off the court.	 12-2, Amphitheater Lawn Lawn Games Join students from the WVC International Program for fun outdoor games and free ice pops.	 11-1, Main Hall Parking Lot Sno Shack Stop by the Sno Shack trailer for a free sno-cone.
31 MONDAY  12, Amphitheater Quack Attack Try your luck at fun duck games and take a shot at winning prizes  6:30, Volleyball vs. John A. Logan College				



QUESTIONS?
/618-262-8641

DUAL CREDIT ORIENTATION HELPS STUDENTS MAKE THE TRANSITION TO COLLEGE

Wabash Valley College welcomed dual credit students to campus August 5 for an orientation designed to help them prepare for college-level coursework.

Students learned what to expect from dual credit classes, including the greater personal responsibility that comes with college coursework, how to communicate with instructors and where to turn when they need help.

Director of Dual Credit Megan Black said dual credit gives students an opportunity to begin developing college skills while they still have support around them.

“Dual credit gives students an opportunity to begin figuring out what it takes to be successful in college while they still have a strong support system around them,” Black said. “We want them to understand that these are college classes, but we also want them to know they have the tools and resources to succeed.”

During the orientation, students received information for the upcoming semester, connected with the IECC dual credit team and learned more about resources available to them as college students.

Black said the benefits of dual credit extend beyond earning credits toward a future degree or certificate.

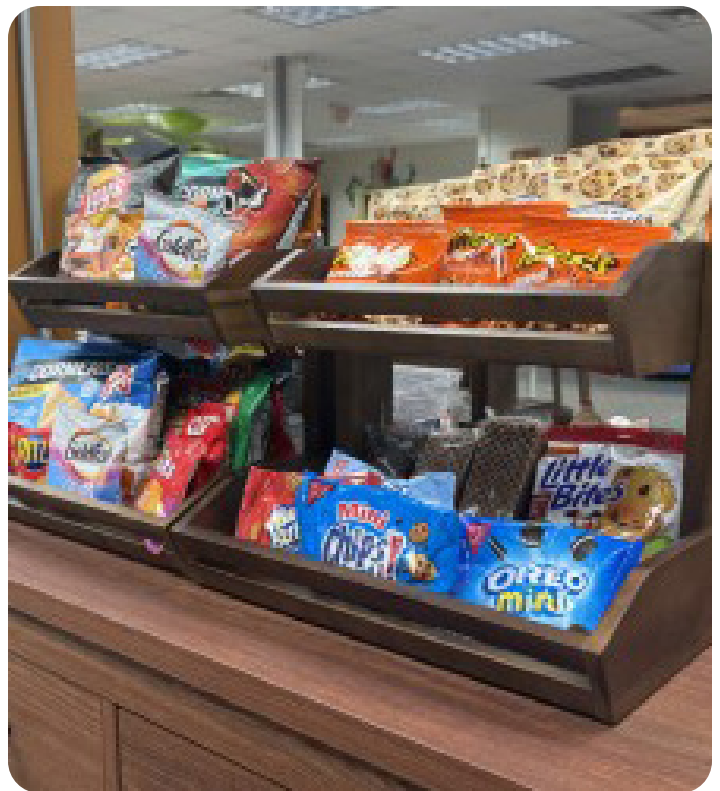
“They’re learning how to manage their time, communicate, advocate for themselves and take ownership of their education,” Black said. “Those are skills that will benefit them no matter where their plans take them after high school.”

Dual credit allows students to earn high school and college credit simultaneously, giving them a head start on college while potentially reducing the time and cost needed to complete a degree.

For Black, the goal was to make sure students began that experience prepared.

“We want our students to walk into that first class knowing what is expected of them and knowing they belong there,” Black said.





CAMPUS RESOURCES READY FOR A NEW SCHOOL YEAR

As we prepare to welcome students back for another school year, resources across Wabash Valley College are ready to help make the semester a little easier. From a cup of coffee or a quick snack between classes to food, personal care products and everyday essentials, students have access to a variety of resources right here on campus.

Students spending time in the Learning Commons can stop by The Valley Grind for coffee, tea or hot chocolate throughout the school day. Grab-and-go snacks from FRESH are also available at The Valley Grind, giving students an easy option when they need something quick between classes, while studying or during a busy day on campus.

The WVC Foundation has helped support The Valley Grind by purchasing the cabinet and sign specifically for the drink bar. The addition gives The Valley Grind a dedicated space within the Learning Commons and helps keep drinks and snacks conveniently available to our students.

The Foundation's support also extends to FRESH, Food Resources Erase Student Hunger, through a \$1,000 annual commitment that directly funds the initiative. Located in the Student Lounge in the Student Center, FRESH provides students with access to food, snacks and a variety of everyday necessities throughout the school year.

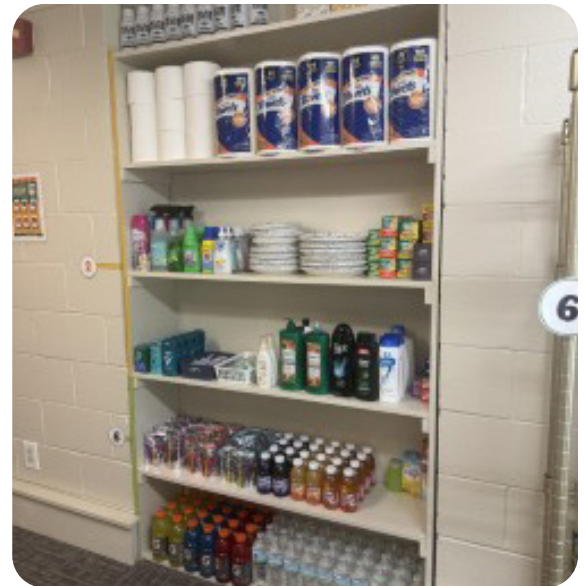
WVC FRESH Faculty Coordinator Jill Winters has been working to prepare the resource for students ahead of the new school year, helping ensure FRESH is ready as students return to campus.

FRESH was originally launched by the WVC Student Senate after conversations among faculty highlighted the importance of having food and other necessities available on campus. With assistance from faculty, staff, students and members of the community, the program continues to provide a resource available to WVC students.

Today, FRESH includes much more than food. Students can find nonperishable food items, personal products, paper goods and other necessities, along with grab-and-go snacks such as crackers, granola bars, chips and more. Some of those snack options are also available at The Valley Grind, extending the reach of the resource to another area of campus.

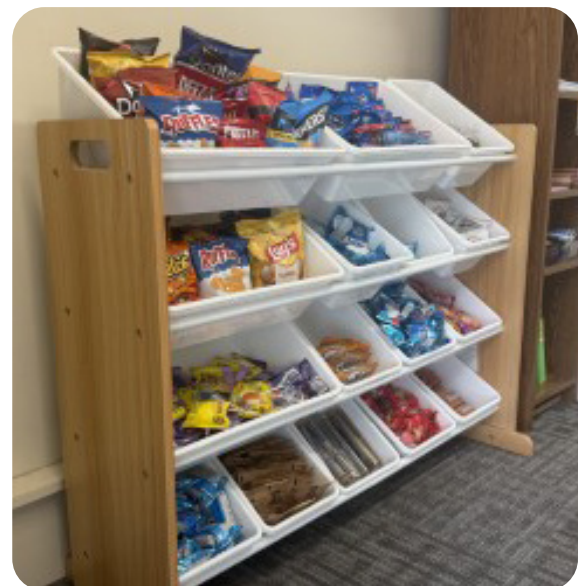
The Foundation's support of both resources reflects its mission of helping students feel supported as they work toward academic success. From its annual commitment to FRESH to purchasing the cabinet and signage for The Valley Grind, that support helps provide resources students can utilize as part of their everyday campus experience.

FRESH is open Monday through Friday from 10



a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Lounge. Students are asked to bring their student ID when visiting. Access outside of regular hours can also be arranged by texting Rachel Refenes at 732-266-1784 to schedule a pickup time.

As a new semester begins, The Valley Grind and FRESH are ready to serve our students throughout the school year. Whether it's grabbing a cup of coffee before class, picking up a snack during a study session or stopping by FRESH for everyday essentials, these resources are here to help our Warriors throughout their time at WVC.





FROM ASSISTANT TO HEAD COACH: BISOGNI STEPS UP TO LEAD WVC WOMEN'S SOCCER

Wabash Valley College women's soccer enters a new chapter this season with a familiar face leading the program. After serving as an assistant coach with the Warriors, Laura Bisogni has stepped into the role of head coach, bringing with her experience within the program and a vision for its future.

For Bisogni, the opportunity to move from assistant to head coach came with both excitement and an understanding of the responsibility of leading the program. Her previous experience with WVC women's soccer has allowed

her to see the foundation already in place and the potential she sees within the team.

"Excitement mixed with a deep sense of responsibility. I've been part of this program and seen the potential in our players and the foundation already here. The chance to lead the Warriors and help shape the next chapter felt like a natural next step and an honor I'm grateful for," Bisogni said.

Having already served as an assistant, Bisogni enters the position with firsthand experience working with players and an understanding of the program's daily operations, recruiting needs and culture. She sees that familiarity as an important foundation as she takes on her new responsibilities while introducing her own vision and energy.

"Having served as an assistant, I've worked closely with the players, understood the daily operations, recruiting needs, and the culture of Wabash Valley College athletics. That firsthand knowledge of what works, what our student-athletes need, and the standards of the program gives me a solid foundation to lead with continuity while bringing my own vision and energy," Bisogni said.

As she steps into the head coaching role, Bisogni has identified several priorities for the program. Building a strong and connected roster through recruiting and player development, establishing clear standards and habits in training and games, and creating an environment where players can improve daily are among her primary areas of focus.

"We're focused on competing hard, growing together, and laying the groundwork for a championship-caliber program," Bisogni said.

The culture Bisogni is working to build centers on accountability, hard work, support and enjoying the process. She wants players to expect a high level of effort from themselves and their teammates while supporting one another throughout the season.

"We want players who hold themselves and each other to high standards, compete with



intensity, celebrate each other's success, and treat the program and their teammates with respect. It should feel like a family that pushes one another to be better on and off the field," Bisogni said.

That emphasis on supporting and developing student-athletes is something former Warriors have experienced firsthand during Bisogni's time with the program. WVC alum Beth Page recently reflected on the people who made an impact during her time at Wabash Valley and pointed to Bisogni as one of them.

"One of the wonderful people at Wabash who had a big impact on me was Laura Bisogni," Page said. "She was always there when I needed someone to lean on and she made me feel like the best keeper in the world."

Page's reflection provides a glimpse into the relationships Bisogni has already built with student-athletes during her time at WVC. As Bisogni

steps into the head coaching role, developing players both on and off the field remains an important part of the culture she wants to continue building.

Player development under Bisogni also extends beyond competition. On the field, she hopes players improve their technical ability and tactical understanding while developing resilience and confidence through competing at a high level. Away from soccer, she wants student-athletes to develop habits and skills that will continue to benefit them after their time at WVC.

Those include discipline, teamwork and time management, along with being prepared to transfer successfully and succeed academically and personally. For Bisogni, a player's growth during her time with the program should not be limited to soccer.

"I want them to leave knowing they grew as people as much as athletes," Bisogni said.

That approach also influences how Bisogni measures the program's success beyond its win-loss record. Consistent improvement, strong team chemistry, players developing into leaders and high academic performance are all areas she will look to as signs of progress.

She also wants the Warriors to compete with pride and character each match while preparing players who move on to the next level for the challenges ahead. Another measure of success is having players leave the program stronger than they found it.

As the season gets underway, Bisogni is encouraging Warrior fans and members of the Wabash Valley College community to support the team as it begins this next chapter.

"Thank you for your support. We're rebuilding with purpose and energy, and we're excited for the season ahead. Come out, cheer loud, and be part of this journey with us. The players and staff are committed to representing Wabash Valley with pride—on the field and in the community. Let's make it a great year together," Bisogni said.



01



02



03



04



05



06

01 Even the lake at Wabash Valley College knows how to make a scene, reflecting a dramatic summer sky.

03 Dog days of summer, WVC style: sunshine, sand volleyball and the best seat in the house.

05 There's plenty happening beneath the surface as work continues on a major transformation of WVC's tennis courts.

02 Serving up some summer fun, volleyball players hit the sand for a sunny day of practice.

04 The college experience starts with the basics as a new WVC student settles in for a brand-new semester.

06 WVC is serving up something new as work continues on six tennis courts with new lighting and improved accessibility.

