

MASTODON LIFE

Homecoming 2023 Sets Positive Tone for Future 'Quality of Place' Experiences

Over the course of six days last week, Mastodons from the past and present—and maybe even the future—took part in a reimaged Homecoming observance that's already serving as a springboard for 2024.

Featuring a wide range of activities, events, and competitions, "Blizzard of Dons" blanketed the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus with laughs, stories, and plenty of school spirit. At the center of it all was the desire to build a shared sense of belonging among students, faculty, staff, and alumni. Consistent with PFW's Quality of Place pillar of its strategic plan, this new take on Homecoming was uniquely PFW and indicative of a growing emphasis on highlighting the way positive actions and experiences enhance academic achievement and personal growth.

Rec Day Rodeo on Tuesday will be remembered for its white cowboy hats and a poky mechanical bull that helped greenhorns ease their way into the sport. Dodgeball, theatre performances, wonderful sounds delivered by students from the School of Music, and plenty of food energized the bodies and minds of hundreds of Dons who joined in the fun.

Five games that made up a full schedule of Mastodon sports were highlighted by the week's main event on Friday at Memorial Coliseum, a men's basketball game versus Northern Kentucky, which was bookended by the festive Homecoming Celebration before tipoff and a traditional dance back on the main campus later that night.

Alums got their chance to reconnect on campus on Saturday, and ideas are already being shared to make Homecoming bigger and better next year.

As with all university successes, it's the people who pave the way for great memories that will last a lifetime. Blizzard of Dons may be finished, but Mastodon pride is frozen in our hearts. Thanks to everyone who made this year's Homecoming one to remember. Catch a few of the best moments from a cool week.

[VIEW VIDEO](#)



Teammates congratulate Damian Chong Qui after his game-winning shot on Sunday.

ATHLETICS

A Perfect Storm: Chong Qui's Bomb at the Buzzer Sends PFW into a Frenzy

College basketball fans, especially students who stick with their team through thick and thin, truly earn the right to storm a court at least once during their time on campus. And while some examples of this practice seem artificial, there's nothing like the outpouring of joy after a game-winning shot that adds a level of legitimacy to the response.

For diehard fans of the Purdue Fort Wayne men's basketball team who were at Gates Sports Center on Sunday, it was Damian Chong Qui's 3-pointer launched from just inside the center court line that gave all involved a chance to celebrate in a way most folks only dream about. The shot earned the Dons a 77–75 win over Wright State, and Chong Qui a place in PFW Athletics history. The fifth-year senior finished the Senior Day contest with 16 points. Jarred Godfrey, PFW's recently-minted all-time leading scorer, added 25 points, five rebounds, and six steals.

Watch below how local and national media described the action:

- 21Alive
- WANE 15
- ESPN

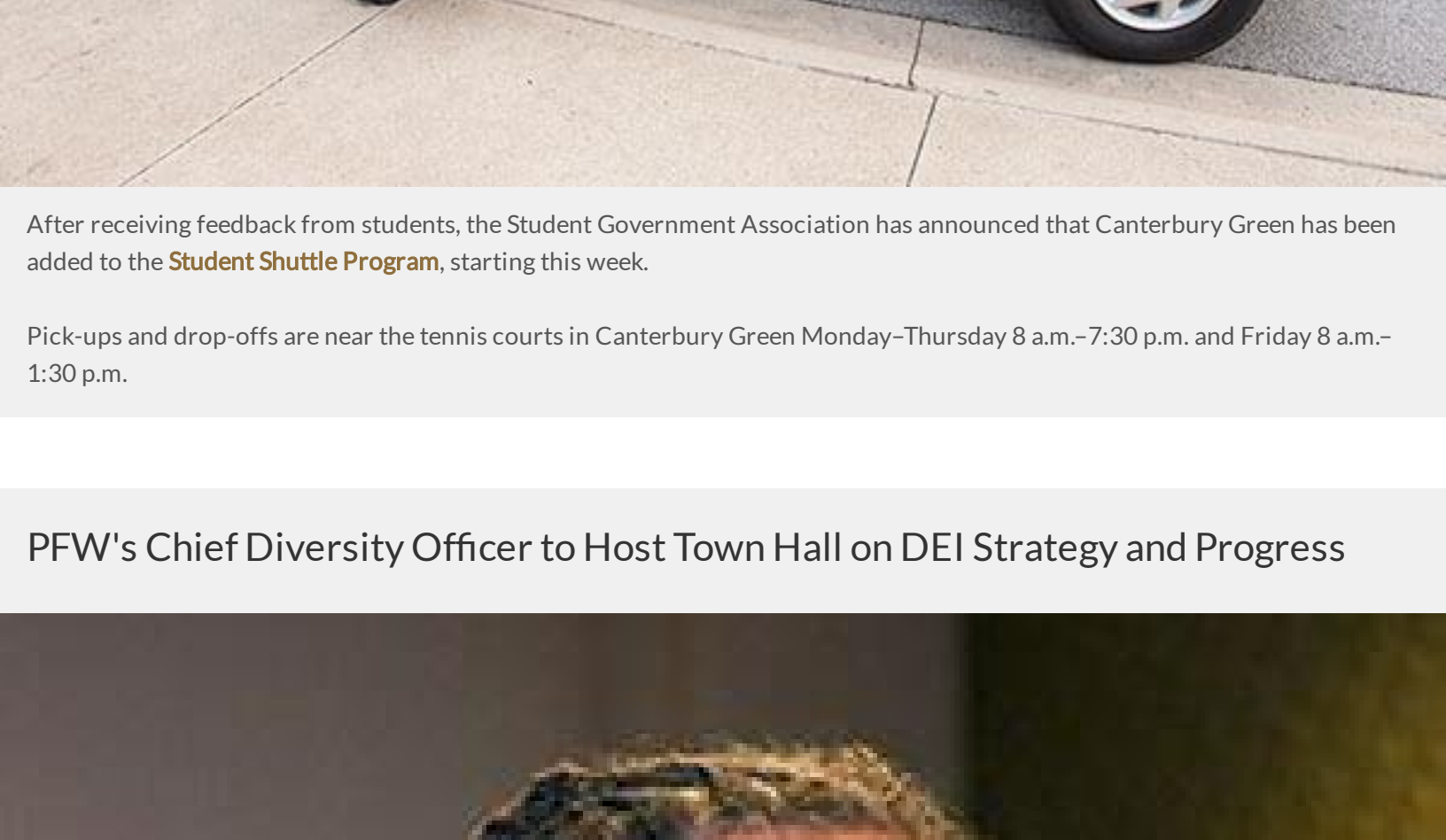
Class Schedule Satisfaction Survey

The Office of Institutional Research and the vice chancellor for academic affairs, in conjunction with the associate vice chancellor of academic affairs at IUFW, have developed a survey to gauge student satisfaction with current class scheduling offerings at PFW.

The survey will launch Monday to currently registered PFW and IUFW students. Please check your email for the unique survey link. All responses are confidential.

If you have any issues accessing the survey or have any questions, please contact the Office of Institutional Research at oir@pfw.edu.

Canterbury Green Added to Student Shuttle Program



After receiving feedback from students, the Student Government Association has announced that Canterbury Green has been added to the **Student Shuttle Program**, starting this week.

Pick-ups and drop-offs are near the tennis courts in Canterbury Green Monday–Thursday 8 a.m.–7:30 p.m. and Friday 8 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

PFW's Chief Diversity Officer to Host Town Hall on DEI Strategy and Progress

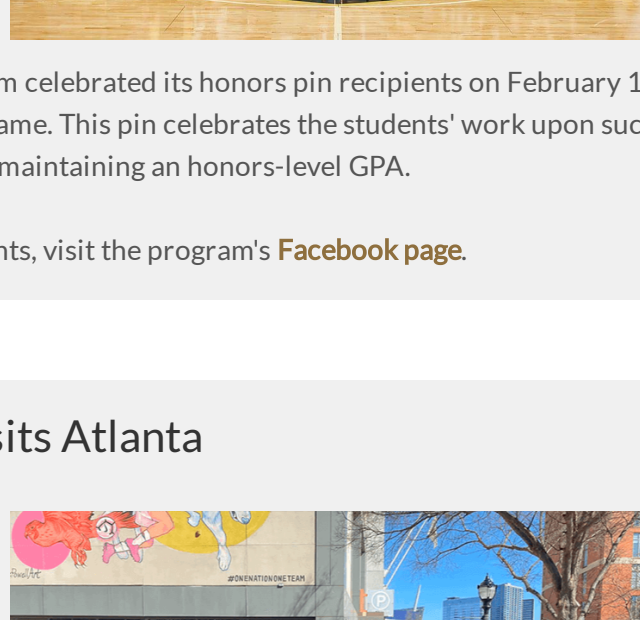


The university's **strategic plan** establishes Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion as a key pillar in its efforts to empower transformation at Purdue Fort Wayne.

You are invited to join Chief Diversity Officer MarTeze Hammonds at a town hall today at 1:30 p.m. in Neff Hall, Room 101, to learn more about PFW's strategies for and progress toward moving **DEI FORWARD**.

The session will also be livestreamed [via Zoom](#).

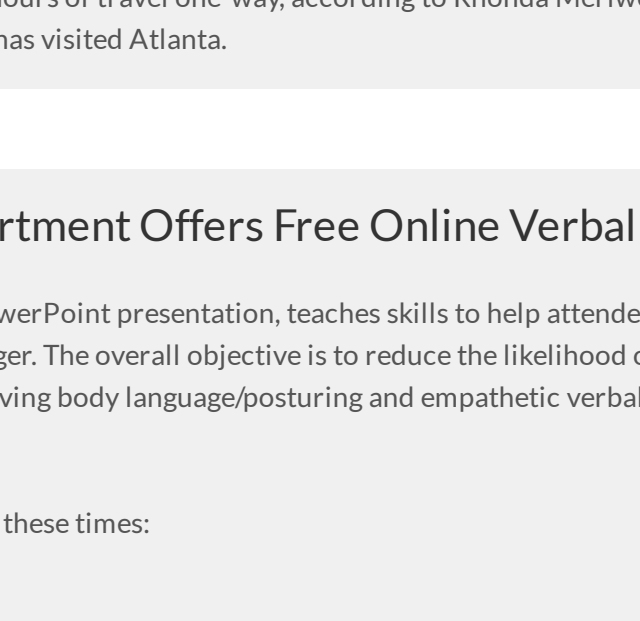
Honors at Center Court



Purdue Fort Wayne's Honors Program celebrated its honors pin recipients on February 10 during the halftime of the PFW vs. Youngstown State men's basketball game. This pin celebrates the students' work upon successful completion of 9 credit hours' worth of honors-level courses while maintaining an honors-level GPA.

For more photos and a list of recipients, visit the program's [Facebook page](#).

Black Student Union Visits Atlanta



Members of the Black Student Union at Purdue Fort Wayne spent the February 3–5 weeks touring Atlanta. Highlights included visiting the Black College Fair, attending the Historically Black Colleges and Universities All-Star Battle of the Bands at Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and touring **The King Center** and MLK's childhood home.

The trip required three vans and 14 hours of travel one-way, according to Rhonda Meriwether, director of The Multicultural Center. This is the first time the BSU has visited Atlanta.

Purdue WL Police Department Offers Free Online Verbal De-escalation Training

Verbal De-escalation, a two-hour PowerPoint presentation, teaches skills to help attendees learn to remain calm and react more effectively when confronted with anger. The overall objective is to reduce the likelihood of escalation to physical aggression. This training includes exercises involving body language/posturing and empathetic verbal language. These skills can be helpful both personally and professionally.

Upcoming sessions will be offered at these times:

- Friday | 10 a.m.–noon
- March 1 | 10 a.m.–noon
- March 7 | 2–4 p.m.
- March 9 | 10 a.m.–noon
- March 22 | 2–4 p.m.

To register, contact Lt. Sarah Clark at sclark32@purdue.edu. Please indicate your preferred session.

The minimum age for participants is 18. Affiliation with Purdue is not required to register.

Remember to Update Your Emergency Contact Information

Emergencies can occur at any time and any place. It's crucial to have current emergency contact information as part of your student record. This info is kept private and will only be accessed during an incident, such as a health or safety emergency. [Follow this link](#) to access the instructions to enter/update your emergency contact information today.

Newsletter Archives Added for Easy Access to Recent and Back Issues

Remembering that there's something in *Don Life* that you wanted to check out again but not knowing where exactly to find it is understandable. Inboxes have an odd way of getting really full, really fast. Now there's a way to find recent and back issues of your employee newsletter, and the Don Life newsletter for students, all in one place.

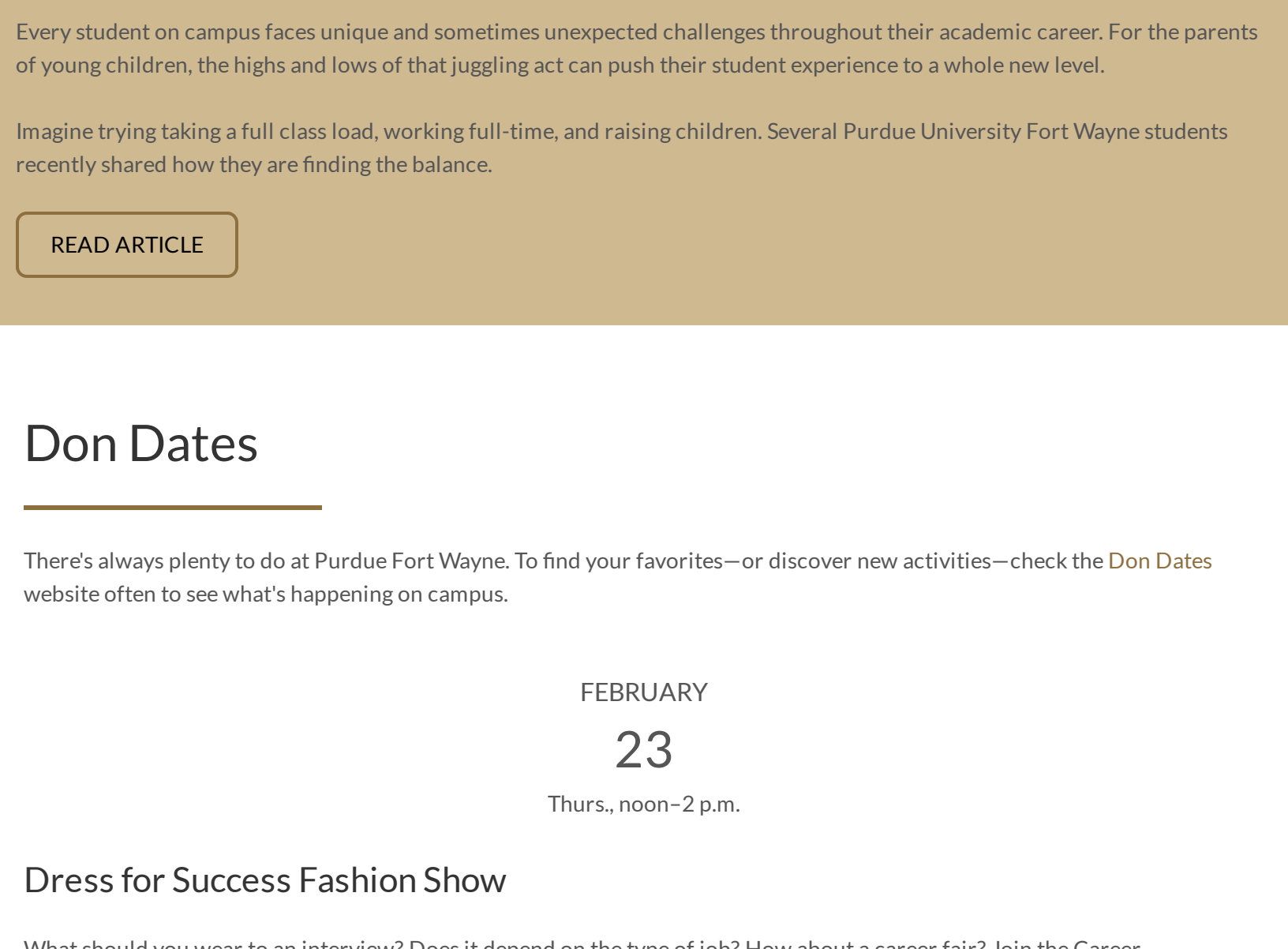
Links to the newsletter archives have now been added to the **News Center** and also on the Current Student and Faculty or Staff Member pages accessible via the I am a . . . dropdown box on the upper-right corner of the university homepage.

[Access Don Life](#)

[Access Inside PFW](#)

Herd That

The student experience is a big part of who we are as Mastodons. Here's one of our stories.



Student Estefany Catota and her partner, Tye Slayback, with their children Sofie, 7, Rosalina, 1, and Kalden, 9.

Students with Families Face Unique Challenges, Motivations Chasing Degrees

Every student on campus faces unique and sometimes unexpected challenges throughout their academic career. For the parents of young children, the highs and lows of that juggling act can push their student experience to a whole new level.

Imagine trying taking a full class load, working full-time, and raising children. Several Purdue University Fort Wayne students recently shared how they are finding the balance.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Don Dates

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the Don Dates website often to see what's happening on campus.

FEBRUARY

23

Thurs., noon–2 p.m.

Dress for Success Fashion Show

What should you wear to an interview? Does it depend on the type of job? How about a career fair? Join the Career Development Center for this more-fun-than-formal fashion show...

FEBRUARY

23

Thurs., 7–9 p.m.

TMC Skate Night

Celebrate Black History Month by joining The Multicultural Center for skating at the Roller Dome...

MARCH

1

Wed., noon–3 p.m.

Mastodon Career Expo

Open to all majors; business interview attire is required...

News Spotlight

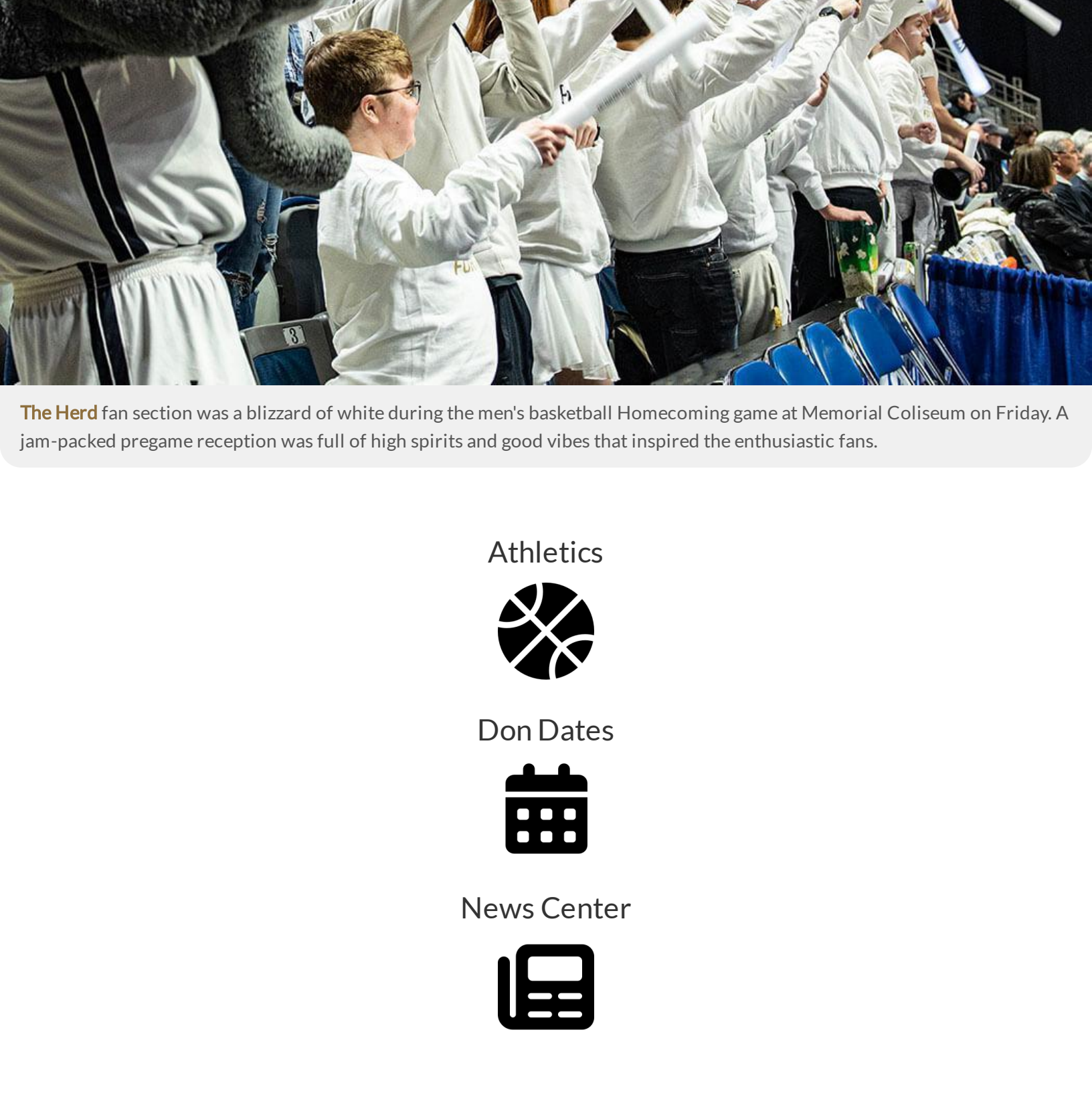
A sampling of external news coverage of Purdue University Fort Wayne.

First-Ever Black Student Union formal event held at PFW

WANE 15 | Monday

Mastodon Moments

Seen and noted around campus. Monitor our university social feeds for more great moments of Mastodon life.



The Herd fan section was a blizzard of white during the men's basketball Homecoming game at Memorial Coliseum on Friday. A jam-packed pregame reception was full of high spirits and good vibes that inspired the enthusiastic fans.

Athletics



Don Dates



News Center



Don Life is an official university communication sent weekly on Wednesday to all currently enrolled students. Don Life Special Edition is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

PURDUE UNIVERSITY
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