

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.

[WATCH ON YOUTUBE](#)

Meet the Candidates for Associate Vice Chancellor for HR and OIE at Open Forum Presentations

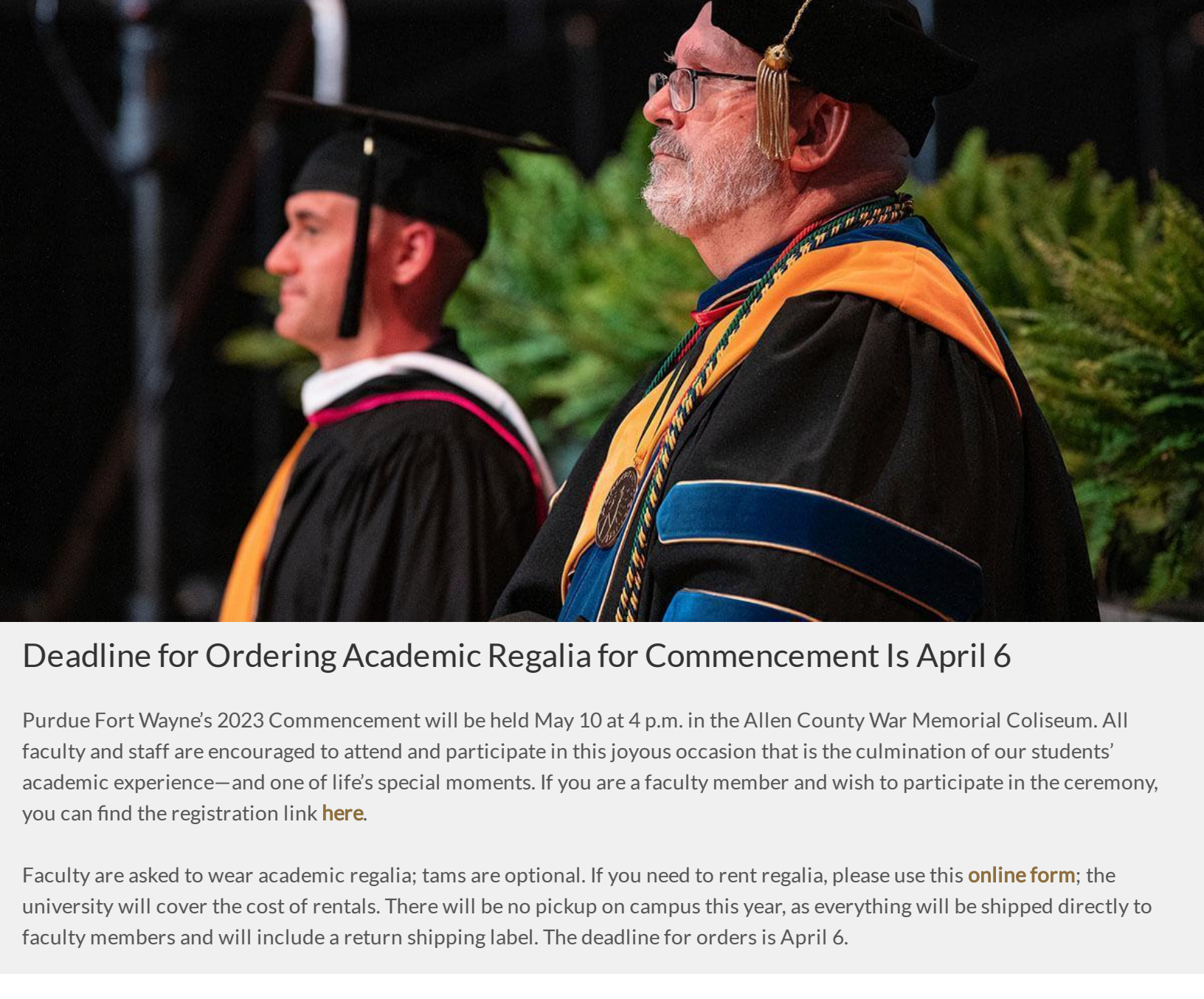
Three finalists for the position of associate vice chancellor for Human Resources and Office of Institutional Equity will be coming to campus to interview over the next week. Each will participate in a virtual open forum that anyone from the university community is welcome to join.

Candidates will give 5–10 minute presentations about themselves and what their vision is for the role of HR in higher education. That will be followed by a Q&A session for the last 20–25 minutes.

Tina Grady
Friday, 2:45 p.m.
[Meeting link](#)

Melissa Helmsing
Wednesday, 2:15 p.m.
[Meeting link](#)

Mark Pederson
March 3, 2:15 p.m.
[Meeting link](#)



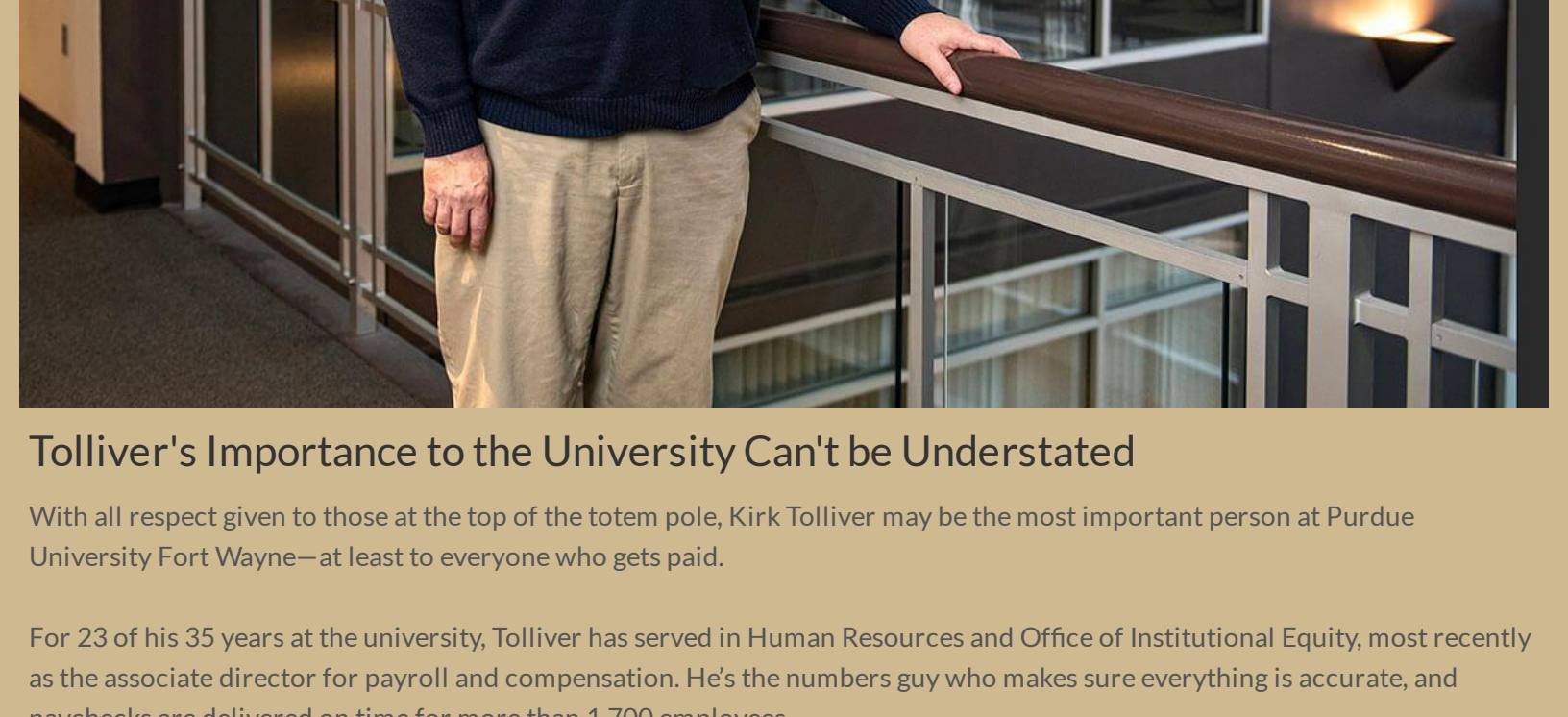
Deadline for Ordering Academic Regalia for Commencement Is April 6

Purdue Fort Wayne's 2023 Commencement will be held May 10 at 4 p.m. in the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum. All faculty and staff are encouraged to attend and participate in this joyous occasion that is the culmination of our students' academic experience—and one of life's special moments. If you are a faculty member and wish to participate in the ceremony, you can find the registration link [here](#).

Faculty are asked to wear academic regalia; tams are optional. If you need to rent regalia, please use this [online form](#); the university will cover the cost of rentals. There will be no pickup on campus this year, as everything will be shipped directly to faculty members and will include a return shipping label. The deadline for orders is April 6.

Dedicated People

Our campus community's growth and success is the result of faculty and staff who work tirelessly to help make the university such a special place to work, learn, and flourish. This series helps us recognize those who exemplify PFW's positive progress.



Tolliver's Importance to the University Can't be Understated

With all respect given to those at the top of the totem pole, Kirk Tolliver may be the most important person at Purdue University Fort Wayne—at least to everyone who gets paid.

For 23 of his 35 years at the university, Tolliver has served in Human Resources and Office of Institutional Equity, most recently as the associate director for payroll and compensation. He's the numbers guy who makes sure everything is accurate, and paychecks are delivered on time for more than 1,700 employees.

[READ ARTICLE](#)

Featured Events

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. Some opportunities are exclusive to university employees and their families. Check the full [events calendar](#), often to see what's happening on campus.

FEBRUARY
24
Fri., 11:30 a.m.–3:30 p.m.

CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification Class

The American Heart Association Basic Life Support and First Aid classes teach basic life-support techniques—including CPR using various methods to assist victims of all ages—and how to operate an AED...

FEBRUARY
26
Sun., 2:30–4:30 p.m.

Early Music (Mostly)

The choral concert will feature a selection of music from the Renaissance and Baroque musical periods, performed in the First Wayne Street United Methodist Church with its wonderful acoustics...

MARCH
1
Wed., noon–1:15 p.m.

"Community Engagement as Empowerment"

The Anthropology Club will host Dr. Mieko Yamada of the Sociology Program to its Luncheon Lecture Series. Yamada's presentation will focus on community-based research project at social service agencies in Fort...

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

Purdue Fort Wayne to showcase early music

WANE 15 | Sunday

Local media catch up with co-founder of The Onion while at PFW

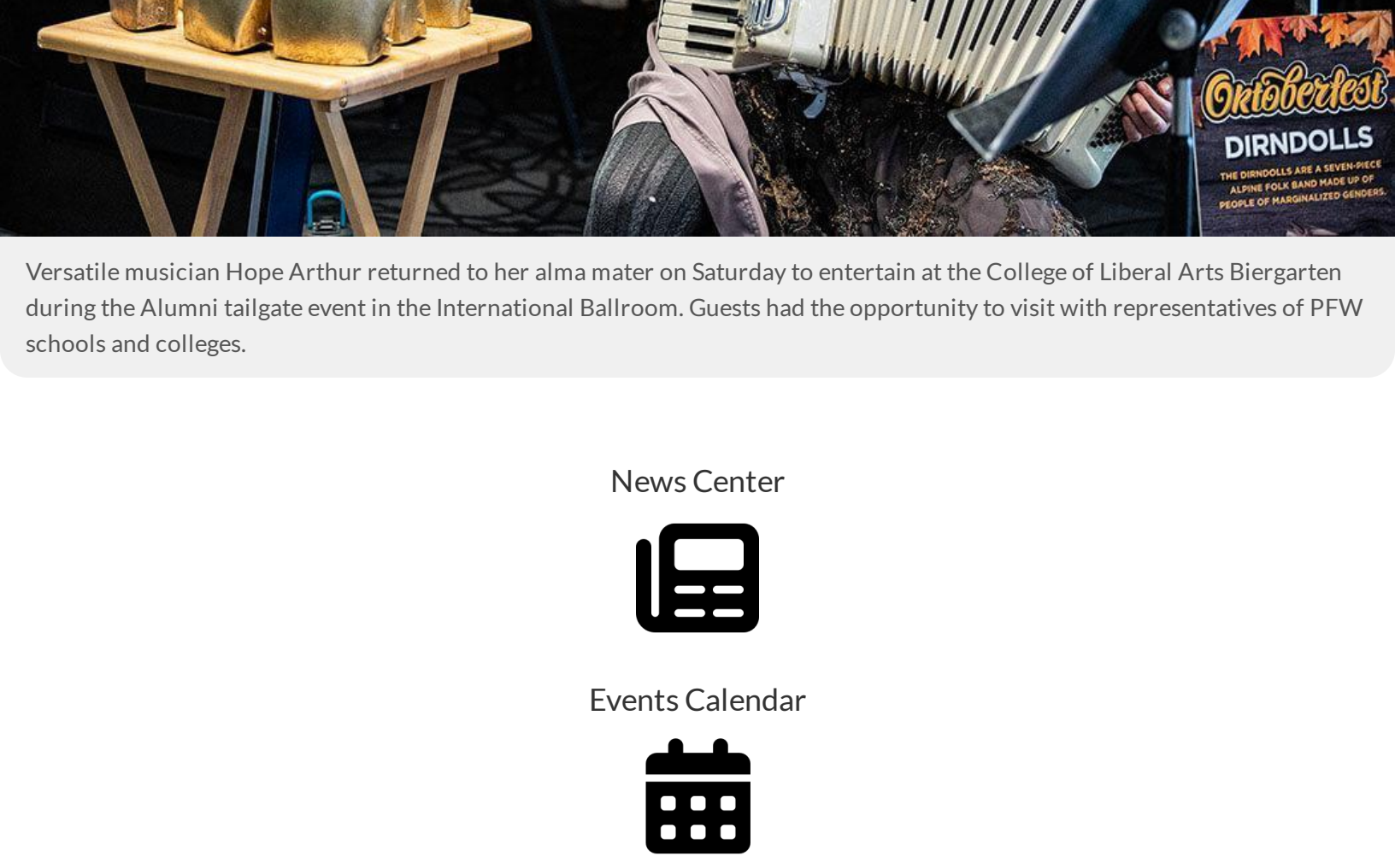
Thursday and Friday

PFW's Rec Day Rodeo

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Feb. 14

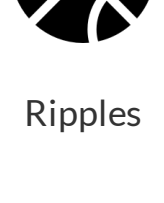
In a Snap

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



Versatile musician Hope Arthur returned to her alma mater on Saturday to entertain at the College of Liberal Arts Biergarten during the Alumni tailgate event in the International Ballroom. Guests had the opportunity to visit with representatives of PFW schools and colleges.

News Center



Events Calendar



Athletics

Ripples



Inside PFW is an official university communication for faculty and staff. All submissions should be sent to inside@pfw.edu no later than 2 p.m. on the day prior to the next edition to be considered for inclusion. Newsletter guidelines can be accessed in the PFW News Center by [clicking here](#).

Inside PFW is produced twice weekly on Tuesday and Thursday by the Office of Communications and Marketing. *Inside PFW Special Edition* is a supplement to the regularly scheduled newsletter. It covers breaking news and time-sensitive information directly related to university operations.

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FORT WAYNE

