



Sgt. Rick Wiegmann introduces juniors Chanell Johnson and Brady Henline to Recon, the PFW police department's new campus therapy dog.

Puppy Power! New Therapy Dog Now on the Beat at PFW

Wherever Rick Wiegmann walks on the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus these days, he receives an abnormally high number of smiles and nods from appreciative students. Actually, it's the 57-pound black Labrador mix walking beside Wiegmann who draws the most eyes, but the University Police sergeant still appreciates the positive attention.

For 3½ weeks, Wiegmann has been the handler for Recon, the police department's new campus therapy dog whose mandate is to make friends and help everyone feel better. With itchy ears that continually need scratching, Recon loves to meet people, stand still for rubs on his neck, and even roll over for easier access to his tummy.

Recon is part of a university initiative Wiegmann helped move forward with a proposal in January. The dog was rescued from a Georgia shelter after its military veteran owner was recalled to active duty and sent overseas. For four months, Recon was trained by veterans at **K9s For Warriors** in Ponte Vedra, Florida. If a dog cannot be trained to work with a veteran, perhaps because of a physical condition, they are repurposed as therapy dogs for universities, hospitals, and first responders.

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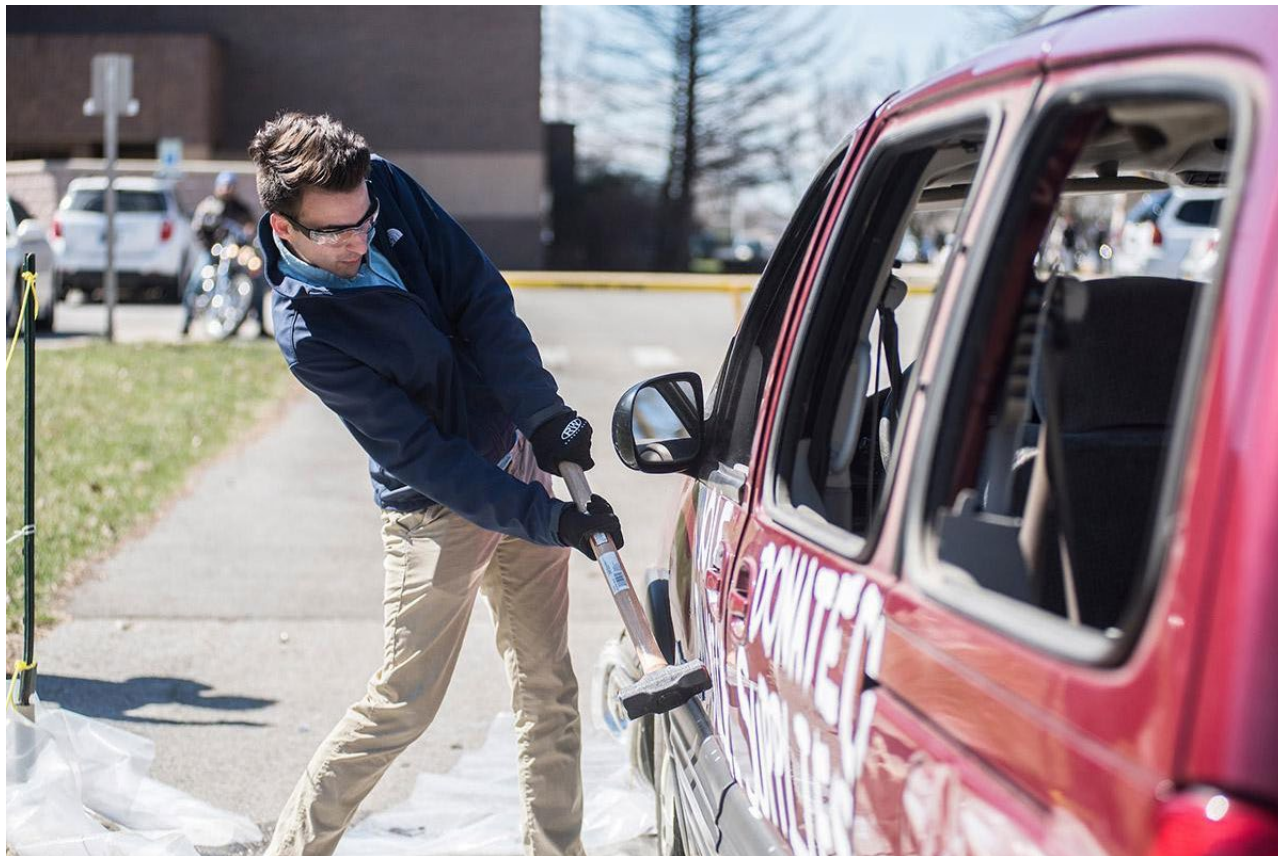
Spring Forward with Fall Registration

Students who still haven't gotten around to registering for the fall semester are encouraged to use these last two weeks of the spring term to take that important step in pursuit of their Purdue degree—and a brighter career path.

For those who have registered for the fall semester and want to know they'll be surrounded by familiar faces, think about checking in on friends and classmates to see if they need just a little more positive reinforcement to stay on track.

While most of the campus community is still together, also consider touching base with an academic advisor, bouncing a few questions off of the **Office of Financial Aid**, and taking a

moment to reflect on all the goals that are well within reach.



A student takes a swing at a junk car during a charity car smash in April 2019.

Smash a Car on the Science Mall Tomorrow

Members of the campus community looking to blow off some steam before finals week are invited to pick up a sledgehammer or baseball bat and take a swing at a junk car parked on the Science Mall on Thursday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This opportunity to destress—which includes live music, free food, and giveaways—is being hosted by the Division of Enrollment Management and the Student Experience’s engagement board. It’s open to all PFW and IUFW students, faculty, and staff. Therapy dogs and lawn games will also be part of the action.

There’s no need to register to attend, but those wanting to take part in any of the actual smashing should fill out the **interest form**, which will share further information on proper attire for safety, as well as how to request accommodations if needed.

Free safety gear will be provided; participants must wear their own closed-toe shoes.



Human services major William Meyer and Eric Manor, associate chief of campus and community wellbeing, pose for a photo in the university pantry, a recipient of Meyer's commitment to service.

Thursday Blood Drive Showcases Meyer's Passion to Help

As a middle school student, William Meyer was bullied because of his autism and other challenges, which could have forced him to isolate and bitterly turn inward. Instead, he says high school friends rescued him. Now as a Purdue University Fort Wayne senior, he finds ways to help others.

The human services major is spearheading a **Red Cross blood drive** on Thursday with the goal of making it the largest in PFW history. The available records say the most donors have been 40, a mark set a couple of years ago, but Meyer is encouraging at least 50 people to sign up or walk in.

The blood drive will take place at Walb Student Union from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Registration is handled through the Red Cross website. Sponsors are the Division of Campus and Community Wellbeing, Campus Recreation, Student Life, Student Leadership, and the Student Activities Board.

[READ MORE](#)



Library staffers Erika Mann and Daniel Lin capture a 3D scan of a baby mastodon skull near the new mastodon bones display at Walb Student Union.

Digital Library Team Pushes Ahead While Looking Back

As the permanent mastodon bones display was being built in a Walb Student Union hallway in August, the Helmke Library team of Erika Mann, Graham Fredrick, and Daniel Lin was working about 15 feet to the side. They were 3D scanning the skull of the baby mastodon, Edgar, which was discovered near the larger skeleton, Donna, 57 years ago on a Steuben County farm.

The scans are now available for future study, but also hopefully to fulfill a promise. Edgar had been displayed at Fort Wayne's Science Central before returning to the university, and the goal is to return a 3D scan to Science Central.

It's an example of how the digital initiatives and technology group, responsible for maintaining and adding to the library's digital collections, is always thinking ahead—while also looking back as historians. Each day, new items are added to the university's online archives due to the dedicated consistency of the four-person department, with help from four student workers.

[READ MORE](#)



Chancellor Ron Elsenbaumer launches a demonstration of the new universal testing machine during a ribbon-crushing ceremony on Monday. Ready to offer assistance is Sherif Elfayoumy, Steel Dynamics Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science.

New Universal Testing Machine Introduced to Help Students Crush It in the Design Phase

The College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science at Purdue University Fort Wayne demonstrated what its new, \$330,000 universal testing machine can do during a ribbon-crushing ceremony on Monday in the Support Services Building.

UTMs are used in quality control, research, and design validation across many industries. They measure the mechanical properties of materials by applying various loads and evaluating their response.

The college's new UTM has a maximum load capacity of 337,000 lbs. It will be used primarily by civil engineering and construction management students and faculty. The associated courses deal with materials, concrete design, and steel design.

UTM tests can be done on cement, reinforced concrete, steel, bricks, wood, plastics, and polymers to measure things such as tensile strength, flexural strength, splitting strength, and cyclic strength. They can also measure elastic modulus and rupture modulus.

Good to Know

Catch a Free, Late-Night Breakfast on Monday

Students needing a caffeine and carbohydrate boost while studying for finals are invited to enjoy a prime-time breakfast from 9 to 11 p.m. on Monday at Don's at Walb. Faculty, staff, and administrators will be providing the service. The event is sponsored by Fresh Ideas, Dining Services, Student Housing on the Waterfield Campus, and the Student Activities Board.

Obergfell Retirement Celebration Set for May 16

In honor of the years of dedication, leadership, and inspiration Ann Obergfell has shared with members of the campus community, all students, faculty, and staff are invited to a retirement celebration for her on May 16 from 2:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Steel Dynamics Keith E. Busse Alumni Center. Refreshments, stories, and laughter will be served. **RSVP here** by May 8 or email lleicht@iu.edu.

Eventful

There's always plenty to do at Purdue Fort Wayne. To find your favorites—or discover new activities—check the full [events calendar](#) often to see what's happening on campus.

MAY

2

Fri., 7–10 p.m.

African Night: An Afrofusion Night

This event is dedicated to showcasing and celebrating African culture through performances, fashion, and music. Free admission...

MAY

2

Fri., 7–11 p.m.

Spielfreaks Campus-Community Tabletop Board Game Night

Play all kinds of modern tabletop board games like Settlers of Catan, Ticket to Ride, 7 Wonders, Splendor, and more (all are appropriate for high school and up). You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

MAY

5

Mon,, 10 a.m.–5 p.m.

Summer Selections Exhibition

A selection of work from freshmen- to senior-level art majors in the Department of Art and Design will be exhibited through Aug. 10...

News Spotlight

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

Gigi's Playhouse celebrates graduation of four students from Gigi's University

21Alive | Thursday

GC welcomes guest speaker on cyber safety, bullying as resource for parents

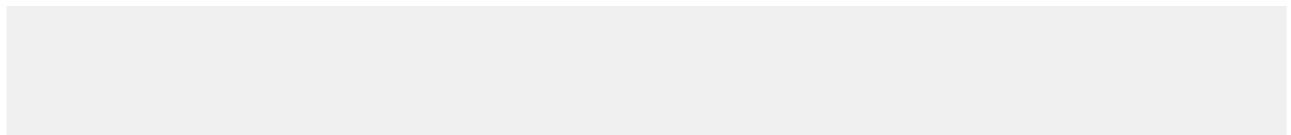
Greenfield Daily Reporter | April 23

Don Wood Foundation awards Purdue Fort Wayne's ETCS with \$803k grant

Fort Wayne-area media | April 22

Mastodon Moments

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





John O'Connell (center), dean of the College of Visual and Performing Arts, gives instruction in the art of swordplay to some visiting high school theatre students on Friday in the Classic Ballroom at Walb Student Union.

Athletics



Events Calendar



News Center



Don Life Archive



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.

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