



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

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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How We Work

How much do you really know about Purdue Fort Wayne? The "How We Work" series explores some of the untold stories about the university's daily operations, its support for students and employees, its engagement in the community, and its various achievements.



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.

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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.



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

Smash a Car on the Science Mall Thursday

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.

Good to Know

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**.

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Scheduled for May 6

Faculty and staff who would like to have portraits taken may do so May 6 from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The photographer will be set up on the north end of the skybridge connecting Helmke Library and Walb Student Union.

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.*

APRIL
30

Stone Age Skills: Experimental Archaeology in Action

Wed., 11 a.m.–3 p.m.

Step into the past and shape the future by crafting your own stone tool with authentic materials and real techniques. Guided by archaeological expert Professor Andy Smith. Hands-on experience reveals the ingenuity, craftsmanship, and survival strategies of early humans...

APRIL

30

Wed., 1–4 p.m.

First-Gen Zone Training

Learn about the history, characteristics, and challenges of our first-generation college student population. This workshop will focus on tools and strategies for PFW staff and faculty to better support our students...

MAY

2

Fri., 7–10 p.m.

African Night: An Afrofusion Night

This Afrocentric Variety Night is dedicated to showcasing and celebrating African culture through performances, fashion, and music. Everyone is welcome. Free admission...

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

Transfers

- Aaron Combs, track and field/cross country director | Athletics

In a Snap

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



A student in Associate Professor Damian Fleming's Latin class engages from a different perspective on a recent, beautiful spring day.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



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**.

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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