



For Students

October 1, 2025



## Work on PFW's New Music Industry Hub Found Its Groove at 'Record' Speed

Construction of the Surack-Sweetwater Music Industry Building on the campus of Purdue University Fort Wayne has progressed to the point where you can almost hear the music in the air. Soon the sounds of jackhammers and drills will be replaced with pianos, trumpets, guitars, flutes, and many other more melodious instruments of the creative process.

With less than a year to go until the \$25 million, 26,000-square foot facility is completed, workers from Weigand Construction are now laboring more on the inside than the outside of the two-story structure. The dry summer allowed them to maintain a steady pace, and students were able to notice an immediate difference from what they saw when the majority left in May after spring semester finals.



"I bring up the new building with every single prospective student I talk to," said John Buteyn, director of PFW's commercial music, music industry, music technology programs. "I discuss how big the facility will be, the equipment that will be available to students, and various partnerships with industry leading companies who are sponsoring various rooms. I explain that we'll have more convenient collaborative opportunities with the other School of Music degree programs moving forward, and collaborative opportunities across campus. So, it's a big talking point."

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## Cast of Critters Adds to Mystique of PFW Campus

Many drivers on the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus may be familiar with the shared annoyance of needing to wait for a flock of Canada geese as they jauntily and seemingly haughtily cross the road with disregard for anyone else. And just imagine how irritated the wildlife must be with all the humans encroaching on their territory.

"The wildlife that is around campus can be a nuisance when we are in a hurry and focused on getting to class or going to work," said Mark Jordan, professor and chair of the Department of Biological Sciences. "However, they can also surprise and inspire if we slow down to observe them

and consider how they are as connected as our neighbors.”

There’s tremendous depth and variety of flora and fauna around PFW, largely thanks to its proximity to the St. Joseph River and the wetland area along California Road near the Heffner Soccer Fields. Sometimes that diversity spills over onto the Main Campus.

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## Rove’s Omnibus Appearance Counts toward Civics Literacy Requirement

Karl Rove’s Omnibus Speaker Series appearance on Tuesday evening in Auer Performance Hall will serve a dual purpose. Along with kicking off the 2025–26 season, students who attend the presentation can count it toward their civics literacy requirement.

To complete a degree, students must take and pass one of seven approved courses or attend or view a combination of four civics-related events. Both options require passing a Civics Literacy Knowledge Test. **Applicable proficiency activities** are accessible via Brightspace.

Rove’s presentation, “America’s Challenges Amidst Its Broken Politics,” starts at 7:30 p.m., and tickets are available through PFW’s **Schatzlein Box Office**, Tuesday through Friday from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m., and on the university’s **online ticketing platform**.

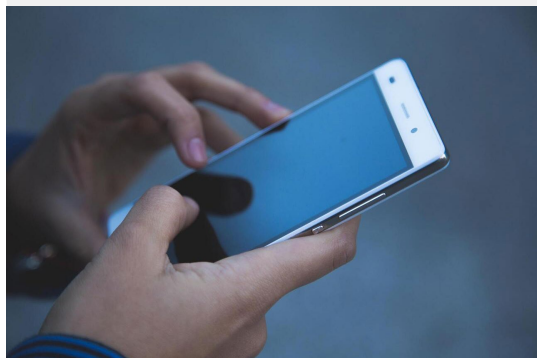
Students are required to check in beforehand at a table outside the hall with their PFW ID card to receive credit for attending.

As announced Sept. 24, safety and security measures consistent with many major events across the country will be observed. No book bags, backpacks, or gym bags will be permitted in the Music Center on the night of the event. Purses may also be subject to search by security personnel. Additional safety and security steps could be added prior to the event, at the discretion of the university.

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## Emergency Notification System Test Planned for Oct. 13



A semiannual test of the university's emergency notification system is scheduled to take place Oct. 13 at 10 a.m. For faster notification in an emergency, register your mobile phone number for mobile alerts. The average amount of time it takes to receive emergency notifications sent via text is less than four seconds.

The full test, which will include a short notification on the university's digital display network, will also feature a link to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report from the Purdue University Fort Wayne Police Department. It can be accessed immediately by **[clicking here](#)**.



## Mastodons vs. Boilermakers: Major Hoops Rumble at Gates Set for Nov. 12

The Purdue Fort Wayne women's basketball team will open its regular season schedule Nov. 12 against Purdue West Lafayette at Gates Sports Center. Tipoff is set for 7 p.m. Mastodon Athletics is also partnering with the Student Activities Board to host a "Party in the Paint" pregame event starting at 5:30 p.m. Additional details will be released in the coming weeks.

As always, PFW students can get into all athletics competitions on campus for free via the Herd Hub in the Suitable app.

Faculty and staff may claim a free upper-level general admission ticket to this early season battle with the Boilermakers and other home games on campus by presenting a valid employee ID at the Gates ticket office. Lower-level seats may also be purchased. All regular season tickets are expected to be made available very soon.

Contact Abby Whitmeyer, athletic ticket sales and annual fund director, at [aawalker@pfw.edu](mailto:aawalker@pfw.edu) or 481-5769 for more information.

Go Dons!

## Eventful

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*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.*

OCTOBER

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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. You'll find an eager crowd ready to play your favorites and teach whatever you want to learn...

OCTOBER

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Mon., noon–1 p.m.

### TRIO Workshop: Stress Management 101

Learn how to take care of yourself physically, mentally, and emotionally with healthy de-stress methods...

OCTOBER

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Tues., 11 a.m.–2 p.m.

### Professional Healthcare Programs Fair

If you're interested in a healthcare graduate program, drop by the Herd Hideout hallway in Walb Student Union to explore programs and find the one that's right for you...



# Mastodon Moments

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



Students and staff got their weekend off to a great start with a fun-filled afternoon of kickball on Friday, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of cheering fans. The event was sponsored by Campus Recreation. To discover some of the ways you can stay fit and have fun at PFW, **visit the Campus Recreation website.**

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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