



Kayaking on the St. Joseph River was a popular attraction at last month's Rec Fest.

PFW Invites Students to Make It a 'Day on the River'

When your university in the Midwest sits next to a body of water, you take advantage of it each fall for as long as Mother Nature allows. That'll be the general idea for Purdue Fort Wayne students experiencing a "Day on the River" Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Activities in and out of the water have been planned so those who would rather keep their feet on terra firma can still enjoy the scene. Highlights of the day are expected to be kayak races among various PFW leaders, airboat rides, biking, and food trucks serving up a free lunch for the first 500 students to arrive.

[FULL SCHEDULE](#)

Safety Expo on Thursday to Start with 1 p.m. Emergency Alert Test

The annual Safety Expo for Purdue Fort Wayne's campus community will be held Thursday from 1 to 4 p.m. on the Science Mall. This is an opportunity for students, staff, and faculty to learn about the important safety resources that are available.

The event starts with a semiannual test of the university's emergency notification system at 1 p.m., which includes alerts that can be sent to mobile phones. For faster notification in an emergency, register your number for **Rave alerts**. The average time to receive emergency notifications via text is less than four seconds.

[READ MORE](#)



Ceramics Students Get Fired Up for Long Kiln Process

Though wearing thick gloves, Purdue University Fort Wayne students Alexa Ross, Anna Gottlieb, and Nicole Pitcher were participating in some hands-on classwork a couple of Friday nights ago.

The trio was helping Seth Green, associate professor of ceramics, during a 33½-hour kiln firing behind the Visual Arts Building. Utilizing "The Train" wood-burning kiln that Green, PFW students, and Ted Neal, professor of ceramics at Ball State University, built in 2017, the students' ceramics work was part of 200 items being fired.

Trying to maintain 2,531 degrees, the process requires nearly two cords of wood and constant attention from a handful of attendants who continually stoke wood through various fire boxes and document the temperatures. They know qualities of woods like a grill master knows cuts of meat, and combining the science and chemistry shows part of the craftsmanship that's necessary in ceramics.



PFW 2024 Commencement Updates for Graduating Students

There is no winter commencement at Purdue Fort Wayne; however, the university's spring commencement is held each May and open to all students who have achieved their degree during the previous year regardless of which semester they graduate. If you graduate in December, you will be able to participate in the ceremony on May 8.

Here are some deadlines and details to keep in mind if you are planning to participate in the May 8 commencement at the Allen County War Memorial Coliseum:

- If you would like to see your name in the commencement program, remember to apply to graduate by March 31. Complete the application in [goPFW](#) under Registration Tools in the Enrollment section.
- After you apply to graduate, **register yourself and your family** for the event. Tickets aren't needed, but sharing an estimated number of your family and friends who will be attending the ceremony and the after party is very helpful for PFW's advance planning.
- **Order your cap and gown.** All orders will be shipped directly to the address that you enter, along with a return shipping label. December graduates who aren't planning to attend commencement in May can order a cap and gown for pictures.
- Visit the [commencement website](#) often for important information, reminders, and updates.



Rainn Wilson led an engaging conversation with a large group of students in the IDEASpace at Helmke Library before his Omnibus presentation on Thursday.

Wilson Provides Spiritual Insight to Open Omnibus Series

Playing characters on critically acclaimed television shows may have proven Rainn Wilson's acting range, but the depth of the man behind the makeup is incredibly more interesting. Wilson opened the 28th season of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Omnibus Speaker Series on Thursday night in front of a full house at Auer Performance Hall on the PFW campus.

Speaking about overcoming his mental health struggles, Wilson encouraged the 1,500 in attendance to continue striving for inner peace to fight off the malaise and cynicism of the times. Don't let them turn you off so much that you quit trying, he said. Look inward to find the spirit of fulfillment because craving more accomplishments, adulation, and acquisitions will ultimately not provide fulfillment.

[READ STORY](#)

Final Chance to Schedule a Free Flu Shot Is Today

Two flu shot clinics for currently enrolled Purdue Fort Wayne and Indiana Fort Wayne students are being offered on campus next week on the following dates:

Oct. 4 | 11 a.m.–1 p.m. | Student Housing Clubhouse

Oct. 5 | 4–6 p.m. | Walb Student Union, Room 114

Students should **schedule their appointment** online through the Super Shot scheduling system by today (Sept. 27) using these

step-by-step instructions. They are asked to bring a photo ID and health insurance card, if insured, with them on the day of the appointment. Because of a recent grant, Super Shot is offering the shots free of charge to students, regardless of their health insurance status.

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.

SEPTEMBER

28

Thurs., 4–7 p.m.

Prep for the Internship and Career Fair

This event will help you kickstart your search for an internship for next summer or fall and will make sure that you are more than ready for the internship fair the following week...

SEPTEMBER

29

Fri., 1–4 p.m.

Career Closet: Our Doors Are Open

Get prepared for your next big interview, a classroom presentation, or the Mastodon Internship and Career fair by taking home a professional outfit from the Mastodon Career Closet. No registration is needed...

SEPTEMBER

29

Fri., 7–10 p.m.

Pride Week Kickoff Drag Show

Enjoy lip syncing, dancing, the LOOKS, and comedy! This is a ticketed event...

News Spotlight

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

PFW hosts first-ever mental health summit

Fort Wayne-area media | Thursday

Omnibus opening night draws positive coverage

Fort Wayne-area media | Thursday

Mastodon Moments

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



The Doermer School of Business **Career Night** on Sept. 19 brought together Purdue Fort Wayne students and representatives from local businesses to talk about the future.

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®
FORT WAYNE

