



Disturbance Ecology Class to Study, Shape Future of Fox Island after '22 Derecho

A new course taught by Scott Bergeson, assistant professor of biology, will give some Purdue University Fort Wayne students an opportunity to help determine how Fox Island County Park recovers from a major ecological event. Parts of the park were obliterated during a June 13, 2022, derecho, damaging more than 3,000 trees which had to be removed.

“The derecho offers a really cool opportunity because I get to study this thing again and again to see how the environment pushed the reset button and what happens after that,” Bergeson said. “We’re going to be able to see how all of the community changes as you get the trees growing back from the barrenness that is left over.”

A derecho is defined as featuring straight-line winds causing large swathes of damage. The winds that day reached 98 mph. Bergeson has taught at PFW for six years, and plans on being here for 30 more—just enough time to see how the recovery effort develops.

[READ MORE](#)



Forecast Calls for Blizzard of Dons

It's going to be cold, snowy, and fun, from Jan. 29 to Feb. 4, 2024. That's when homecoming—Blizzard of Dons—returns. Mark your calendar and get ready to celebrate during a week of events and giveaways so big, there'll be something for every Don. Specifically block out time for the Blizzard of Dons Celebration on Saturday, Feb. 3, at 5 p.m. in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union. One word: barbecue. Be on the lookout for more info on this developing story.

Need Last-Minute Holiday Gifts?

If you've procrastinated on holiday shopping, you're not alone! Don't panic—there's still time to grab some fab PFW-related merchandise from these vendors:

- **PFW Mastodon online store** (Amazon)
- **Mastodon Campus Store**—both on campus and online
- **PFW student-athletes NIL store** (Athlete's Thread)

Signups for Spring 2024 SafeZone Sessions Are Now Open

SafeZone is a comprehensive LGBTQIA+ allyship and advocacy training program developed especially for faculty and staff at Purdue Fort Wayne and IU Fort Wayne.

There are several training opportunities during the spring 2024 semester, but if you don't see one that works for you, reach out to qcenter@pfw.edu and its team will work with you and your department to schedule individualized training.

From the Field

Several colleges, departments, and programs at PFW publish e-newsletters. Follow these links to read the latest:

VPA Expressions | College of Visual and Performing Arts

SOE Newsletter | School of Education

In a Snap

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



Senior Sam Hiles was one of many students who stood in a long line on Wednesday for the latest and biggest Student Activities Board bingo event in the International Ballroom. In addition to great prizes, the holiday-themed session also featured an ugly sweater contest for the best (worst?) dressed.

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**.

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