



DAC Director's Heroic Actions Helpful after Accident

Only because his mother asked him to bring something sharp, Ryan McCombs had his pocket knife that day. Fulfilling mom's simple request might have helped save someone's life.

At approximately 3 p.m. on Oct. 28, the director of Purdue University Fort Wayne's Disability Access Center was leaving home to drive to the Michigan state line and meet his parents who had been caring for McCombs' 1½-year-old Newfoundland dog, Sitka. McCombs' mother had asked him to bring a knife to cut open a bag of dog food.

As he was climbing into his truck, McCombs looked up to see a car crash without slowing into another vehicle at the corner of Lake Avenue and Old Maysville Road, flipping the first car onto its side and shoving part of it into the oncoming lane. The car that was hit held a mother and her two children, ages 6 and 3, who were coming back from a birthday party.

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Fort Wayne International Ad Campaign Takes Flight

As travelers make their way through the Fort Wayne International Airport this holiday season, they are encountering a fresh round of Purdue Fort Wayne advertising. The campaign, which features a **sequence of several images** strung together, is an extension of the billboard campaign that has been under way in the Fort Wayne, Indianapolis, and South Bend metropolitan areas since September. Featuring bold messaging and engaging students, the distinctive ads continue to position Purdue Fort Wayne as a top destination for thousands of college-bound students and their families traveling through FWA, not just during the holiday season, but into the new year.

The ads are located just outside the TSA security entrance in the newly renovated public area of the airport.

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Cute Canine's Service to Others No Trick

No matter how Emily Wentland moves her head or hands, Gunner's eyes never leave her face. Conversely, she can never tell those eyes "No." The miniature American shepherd would ignore his master anyway and try again until he gets the treat.

But usually, Wentland, a Purdue University Fort Wayne senior, makes Gunner earn his prizes by helping others. The duo loves visiting schools, libraries, and retirement homes where the licensed therapy dog entertains and brings smiles to everyone.

Wentland is a biology major studying pre-veterinarian courses. This 2023 **Top 50 designee** started training Gunner to do tricks when he was 9 months old, beginning with playing dead. He's 8 now and his catalog includes around 100 tricks, some of which are crowd stunners.

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Stream the 2023 PFW Home for the Holidays Concert

The broadcast of the Purdue Fort Wayne Home for the Holidays concert is now available online.

This annual collaboration between the PFW College of Visual and Performing Arts and PBS Fort Wayne was broadcast live from the Auer Performance Hall on Dec. 4. The concert, featuring the School of Music's choral ensembles and the University and Community Orchestra, has become a holiday favorite for area music lovers and viewers. This year there were over 1,000 in the audience, the largest school ensembles attendance to date.

You can stream the concert for free through the [PBS website](#), as well as smart TVs, mobile phones, computers, and tablets using the PBS Fort Wayne app.

Evaluation Workshop Set for Tuesday

The university will soon enter into its annual evaluation season. To help with the first step—writing and entering goals into SuccessFactors—a workshop has been scheduled for Tuesday at 3 p.m. in the IdeaSpace at Helmke Library. [Register here](#).

Additional information, tips and resources, and videos on the annual evaluation process are [available online](#). For additional information, contact Dimples Smith, learning and development director, at smid@pfw.edu or 260-481-6681.

Inside PFW on Hiatus

Today's *Inside PFW* is the final regularly scheduled edition of 2023. Publication will resume on Tuesday, Jan. 9. While you're away, please continue to monitor your university email account and PFW's social media channels for special editions and

Good to Know

Retirement Open House for Pam Thompson

Pam Thompson, purchasing manager, is retiring from Purdue Fort Wayne at the end of the month. You're invited to an open house on Dec. 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in the Kettler Hall staff/faculty lounge, Room 154.

Faculty and Staff Portrait Session

Faculty and staff who would like to have portraits taken may do so on Jan. 9 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. Please note that this session is taking place the second Tuesday of the month—the opportunity is usually offered the first Tuesday of the month.

On the Job

Check out the new faces in new places.

New Hires

- Shayne Hodgess, accounting technician | Accounting and Budget
- Mikala O'Rourke-Zielinski, senior administrative assistant | School of Polytechnic

News Spotlight

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

'Shoe' us how it's done, Rasheed: PFW's Bello delivers top viral moment of young hoops season

Education Notebook: Purdue Fort Wayne professor becomes fossil's namesake

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Monday

Allen County math teachers bring 'thinking' to math classrooms

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Saturday

Supporting math initiative adds up for Purdue Fort Wayne officials

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Saturday

Purdue Fort Wayne hosts *FIRSTLEGO* League Semi-State Tournament

21Alive | Saturday

Learning to fly: Disabilities train leaders to cultivate other skills

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Dec. 7

Purdue Fort Wayne's GSR scores rise

The Journal Gazette (subscription required) | Dec. 6

In a Snap

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



The Multicultural Center's DaVion Tate models the special stole for fall 2023 graduates who completed the **Getting to Graduation** program, which encourages underrepresented students to earn points and enrich their college experience by participating in campus activities, events, and services.

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**.

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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