



## Mechanical Engineering Major at Purdue Fort Wayne Steps Up to Help Hometown Project

In the early stages of a push to renovate the Fort Recovery Morvilius Opera House in Fort Recovery, Ohio, Tracy Evers-Westgerdes was serving as the restoration group's vice president. The structure was built downtown in 1883 at the whopping price of \$5,000 to \$6,000. It sat unused for 80 years, in such disrepair that no one wanted to buy it. The restoration group formed in 2020, estimating the project would require at least \$2 million, with hopes of a reopening date in 2026.

Though only halfway through his first semester as a freshman, Purdue University Fort Wayne's Caleb Evers knew he didn't have a choice when his mother asked for a favor. Still, the **mechanical engineering** major wasn't exactly sure he was capable of pulling it off.

One of the first goals was to repaint the second-floor ceiling where the auditorium is housed, but parts quickly began to crumble after removing two layers of wallpaper. Pictures and hand-written notes were taken, but the painters needed something more detailed to work from. That's when Evers-Westgerdes texted her son.

As Evers describes it, he was halfway volunteered and halfway drafted. If he were married, it would fall under the definition

“voluntold.”

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## Homecoming 'Blizzard' Nears Full Strength; Free Food on the Way!

Purdue University Fort Wayne's Homecoming 2024, a **Blizzard of Dons**, has heated up—if that makes sense. Late developments from the PFW weather center include news of free shuttle service to Friday night's ice skating party and a free feast fit for Dons in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union on Saturday.

After preliminary forecasts in December prompted advance warning of this specific weather phenomenon, word really began to circulate in recent weeks via numerous channels including strategically placed digital billboards located at four high-traffic locations across Fort Wayne. The strong imagery serves as a reminder for all Dons to return to the herd to show their support for PFW.

Tonight's men's basketball game is the next chance to display school spirit as the Mastodons (14-7) are pitted against Milwaukee (10-11) at Memorial Coliseum. This contest starts at 7 p.m. and includes a "White Out" alert, so prepare to wear snowy white.

The men's volleyball team (4-3) is encouraging fans to celebrate a "Snow at the Beach" theme for a Friday match at Gates Sports Center at 7 p.m. against Saint Francis (Pa.).

That match is followed by a free post-game ice skating party for students from 9 p.m. to midnight at the SportONE/Parkview Icehouse, 3869 Ice Way. The shuttles will begin making their runs at Gates starting at 9 p.m. and continue throughout the event. Snacks and refreshments will be available.

Maybe the busiest day of PFW's blizzard will be Saturday as the women's basketball team plays IUPUI at 3 p.m. at Gates, followed



by the men's volleyball team playing rival and No. 8-ranked Penn State at 7 p.m.

Those looking to fuel up in between the two sessions are invited to grab a free meal from Fresh Ideas at 5 p.m. in the International Ballroom. Games including cornhole and the giant version of Jenga will also be taking place.

The week's events finish with a 2 p.m. tipoff on Sunday as the men's basketball team plays Youngstown State at Gates. Halftime will include a performance by two finalists from last week's Lip-Sync Battle.

Learn more by visiting the Homecoming 2024 [website](#).



## Grad Student Supports Those Struggling with Addiction

Carolyn Pang, B.S. '21, began building her leadership résumé at Purdue University Fort Wayne in 2019 when she restarted the student club Psi Chi, the international honor society for psychology, which works to encourage and advance the science of the discipline. Though only a sophomore, Pang helped get the club going again, served as president for two years, and built a foundation that continues.

“As the advisors of Psi Chi, Jody Ross and I were so glad that Carolyn said yes,” said Sara Simpson, administrative assistant for the Department of Psychology. “She entered with many doubts about being a leader, but blossomed in this role. During her two years as president, she supported students and fellow officers with warmth and humor, especially during the pandemic months.”

Because of her work, the Fort Wayne branch of the American Association of University Women selected Pang to attend the National Conference for College Women Student Leaders in 2020. Even as a graduate student, Pang continues to support Psi Chi's current efforts.

[READ MORE](#)



## SAB Hosting Supply Closet Cleanout on Monday

Just like a spokesperson for an auto dealer screaming about the need to move vehicles off the lot, the Student Activities Board has a problem with too much inventory. As a result, SAB is hosting a closet cleanout on Monday from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in Walb Student Union, rooms 222 and 226.

“It will be a garage sale-type of thing where people can stop by and grab a couple of items from past inventories,” said Jacob Eck, assistant director of Student Life. “People will get three tickets to pick out three items.”

And it's all free. The stash includes blankets, beach towels, T-shirts, cups, cowboy hats from Homecoming 2023, Chancellor's Chili Fest and other mugs, hoodies, and school flags. There might even be some other unique discoveries currently hidden on shelves waiting to be emptied.

When you think about it, the whole thing sounds a little like an old George Carlin bit.

“We have so much stuff, and we need to free up the space to get more,” Eck said.

## Good to Know

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Elfayoumy and Keever Part of 2024 Leadership Fort Wayne Class

Greater Fort Wayne Inc. has introduced the **Leadership Fort Wayne** Class of 2024. Among the 60-member group this year are Shubitha Kever, associate chief diversity officer, and Sherif Elfayoumy, Steel Dynamics Dean of the College of Engineering, Technology, and Computer Science.

## Faculty and Staff Portrait Session Set for Tuesday

If you would like to have your portrait taken, you may do so Tuesday 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

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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.*

FEBRUARY

4

Sun., 9:30 a.m.–6:30 p.m.

### Gene Marcus Piano Competition Finals and Winners Recital

The annual Gene Marcus Piano Competition celebrates its 13th year and regularly attracts top, young pianists, ages 18 and under, from Indiana, Michigan, and Ohio. Pianists, up to the age of 18 within 100 miles of Fort Wayne, compete in four age divisions for cash prizes...

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FEBRUARY

6

Tues., noon–1 p.m.

### Tobacco Cessation: A Virtual Lifestyle Education Program

Learn about strategies to help you quit and remain smoke-free and tobacco-free as well as resources to help you avoid or waive the tobacco user premium as part of your Purdue Medical Plan. This six-week workshop meets virtually for an hour every week...

# News Spotlight

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

## News of Crisler's honor picked up state-wide

Local and state media | Jan. 25

## Purdue Fort Wayne students discuss genocide amid International Holocaust Remembrance Day

FOX 55 | Thursday

## In a Snap

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





Chief Tim Potts of Purdue Fort Wayne's police force was bid a fond farewell at a special retirement gathering in the International Ballroom at Walb Student Union on Monday. Potts was presented with multiple gifts including a special plaque custom-made by Jason Moyer, manager of support services-mechanical in the School of Polytechnic.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



Athletics



Ripples



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