



Exploring the Love of Turtles with Unreserved Passion

While traveling to Costa Rica two years ago as part of a marine biology class spring break trip, Allyssa Hennessey was ready for anything. As soon as the field biologist started yelling “Baula! Baula!”—which means leatherback in Spanish—Hennessey started sprinting. Nothing was going to stop her from seeing her first sea turtle.

Hennessey, B.S. '23, was able to log statistics on the first sea turtle she ever saw, a process that included sticking her head into the egg chamber to collect measurable data.

“For lack of a better term, it was like a high I had never felt before,” Hennessey said. “These animals are so amazing. I think that was the moment I said, ‘This is something I want to do for as long as I can.’”

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How We Work

How much do you really know about Purdue Fort Wayne? The “How We Work” series explores some of the untold stories about the university’s daily operations, its support for students and employees, its engagement in the community, and its various achievements.



Director of Community Research Institute Deciphers the Data

Among hundreds of experts in their field—professors, administrators, and coaches—Rachel Blakeman may be the most quoted person on the Purdue University Fort Wayne campus. As director of the **Community Research Institute** in the Doermer School of Business, Blakeman has been interviewed by the media almost 300 times since 2020 to give stories perspective and add context.

Blakeman says her job is, “The idea of helping people understand what is happening around them.”

Since joining Purdue Fort Wayne in July 2017, Blakeman has been studying northeast Indiana data and trends to gain knowledge about the region, something she excelled at early in her career as a journalist, and then as a city government compliance officer and spokesperson. She knows where to find legitimate, reliable statistics and reports to provide answers for those looking.

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Where Were You the Night Flo Rida Came to Our House?

The vibes at Gates Sports Center on Friday night were strong. Driven by the sound system's thundering bass that led to a nearly constant bounce to the beat from students on the main floor, Flo Rida's performance energized the crowd and did not disappoint.

"That was the most fun I've ever had as a PFW student," one concertgoer was heard saying just after the show concluded.

Even those who started the night more curious than confident about what they'd witness came away impressed with the way the bestselling rapper engaged with the herd, helping everyone create unforgettable memories.

Here are some sights and sounds of the night Flo Rida came to PFW's house:

[WATCH VIDEO](#)

Good to Know

Crisis Training on North Campus Tuesday

University Police and the Fort Wayne Police Department will be conducting a crisis negotiation training scenario on Tuesday in the Dolnick Learning Center on PFW's North Campus. Some barricades and several police cars will be visible during the

exercise that is scheduled to last between 7 a.m. and 3 p.m.

Recognition Gala Photos and Survey Now Available

Photos from the Employee Recognition Gala have been uploaded to the [Human Resources website](#). These photos include service milestone honorees, retirees, 2023 Featured Faculty Award winners, and APSAC and CSSAC Excellence Award recipients. In addition, an anonymous [post-event survey](#) has been created to rate various aspects of the event.

Fitness Center Summer Hours

Fitness center summer hours will begin Saturday, as follows: Monday–Friday, 7 a.m.–7 p.m.; Saturday, 8 a.m.–2 p.m.; and Sunday, noon–5 p.m.

Eventful

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.

MAY

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Runs through Aug. 5

Summer Selections Exhibition

A selection of work from freshmen to senior-level art majors in the Department of Art and Design will be exhibited in the Visual Arts Gallery over the summer...

MAY

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Mon., 5:30–9:30 p.m.

CPR, AED, and First Aid Certification Class

The American Heart Association Basic Life Support and First Aid classes teaches basic life-support techniques—including CPR using various methods to assist victims of all ages—and how to operate an AED, or automated external defibrillator...

News Spotlight

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

Famed historian visits Purdue Fort Wayne for speaker series

Fort Wayne-area media | April 25-26

PFW's 'Big Give' achieves biggest results yet

Fort Wayne-area media | April 25-26

In a Snap

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



The Student Activities Board provided decorating materials on Monday to dress up graduation caps for the big day on **May 8**.

News Center



Inside PFW Archive



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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