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## The Chanticleer, 2021 February

Coastal Carolina University

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# THE CHANTICLEER

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# President Benson tests positive for COVID-19 after only three weeks in office

Shelbi R. Ankiewicz // Assistant Editor

Coastal Carolina University's new president, Michael T. Benson, tested positive for COVID-19 on Thursday, Jan. 21.

Benson is unsure of how he contracted the virus, whether it be from on campus or elsewhere. He had just arrived home a few days prior from visiting his family in Kentucky when he learned of the results.

While on campus, Benson was riding a golf cart around with CCU's Provost, Daniel Ennis. They were greeting people, safely, while wearing their masks. Benson then proceeded to have dinner in Hick's Dining Hall on Tuesday night.

Thursday morning the Chief of Police visited Benson in his office, and moments after the Chief left, Benson received the email stating that he tested positive. Disregarding the meetings that were taking place later that day, Benson calmly picked up his things, put on his mask, and left, remaining home ever since.

"People have been really generous and kind, dropping food off on my doorstep, and some people from our local congregation dropped off way too many cookies... I didn't need to eat them all, but I did," said Benson in a



//Photo courtesy - President Benson uploaded this photo of himself wearing a mask to his Twitter account

phone interview.

According to the COVID-19 Dashboard on CCU's website, the university's numbers have been consistent since last June. There has been a small spike in numbers recently

among students and staff, but not a remarkable amount.

"I think that we've done really, really well," said Benson. "It's kind of like the fourth quarter of the football game; we played hard the entire season, and now

we just have to keep pushing through."

COVID-19 precautions on campus will remain the same. The mask ordinance is still in place as well as social distancing measures in classrooms. Clubs, organizations and office hours will remain online until it is time to navigate to Phase 2 of the Coastal Comeback Plan.

"I would not suggest any sort of changes to our protocols, because if you look at our numbers, our positivity rate, I want to say we're just North of 400 cases since June of last year which is really quite remarkable," said Benson.

Benson was tested on campus in parking lot KK, next to public safety. The results from that testing site take two days to process.

Since being at home, Benson has been staying engaged through online zoom classes and meetings. He has implemented a weekly routine after being in office for a month. Benson returned to campus on Feb. 1, 2021.

"Like everybody I miss the human contact and shaking someone's hand and looking at them in the eyes, but we're not to that point yet," said Benson. "We're getting closer, you know the vaccine and people getting inoculated that certainly helps..."



# Joe Biden wins election: What have his first days in office entailed?

Samantha Popovics // Reporter

This year began with the storming of the United States Capitol as the U.S. said farewell to the 45th president.

However, the year changed after the inauguration of President Joe Biden, who is quickly making decisions to fix the dismantled pieces of the country.

The Biden administration began mandating their agenda after the first day Biden was inducted, as promised to Americans four years ago. Many decisions include the undoing of Trump era policies. Biden's plans and policies heavily emphasize the importance of unity, racial justice, healthcare, COVID-19, education, and the global warming effects on the environment.

Biden has signed 25 executive orders within the first two weeks of his presidency. This is more orders than any previous U.S. president has signed within their first 100 days; Trump signed 24. On the first day of Biden's presidency, he rejoined the Paris Agreement that Trump had withdrawn from in 2017.

Pamela Martin, Ph.D., an instructor of environmental politics and sustainable development at Coastal Carolina University, said rejoining the Paris Climate Accord sets goals of lowering greenhouse gas emissions, according to scientific reports. She also shared her views on how the Biden administration has already benefited the state of the environment in South Carolina.

"This action also provides the U.S. the

opportunity to re-engage in a leadership role on climate change at the global level," said Martin.

According to Martin, the state of South Carolina at one time was the leading state in opposition to offshore drilling along the east coast. Biden extended the moratorium (Trump removed) that was put in place under the Obama administration for offshore drilling, prohibiting the activity and drilling leases on federal lands.

"Given our local governments and citizens polled emphatically opposed offshore drilling due to our fragile ecosystems and bustling tourism economy, this is a big win for our coast and our state," said Martin.

Martin also spoke about water quality protections and how the drinking water for Conway and Myrtle Beach residents comes from the Waccamaw River and the Winyah Bay, which is the third largest watershed on the east coast.

Martin said, "Policies that protect our water and air, reduce emissions, and reconnect us to nature, especially during such a difficult pandemic will reap long term benefits well beyond this administration toward a better, more equitable, and healthier quality of life for all."

Kaitlin Sidarsky, Ph.D., a professor of women and public policy at CCU, said that the Biden administration has already "hit the ground running," in providing new people government positions, signing executive orders, and laying out plans in

several policy areas.

She believes that many of these efforts are to respond effectively to the COVID-19 crisis and to allow the vaccination to be distributed at a more efficient pace. The Biden administration is also overturning many Trump era policies to support the political views of Biden's.

"You can also see in this administration a clear effort to more visibly include the Vice President, Kamala Harris as well as efforts to make those who they appoint more racially, ethnically and gender balanced than any administration has been before," said Sidarsky.

For the first time in U.S. history, there is a woman vice president, as well as a transgender Assistant Secretary of Health, Rachel Levine.

Sidarsky also voiced concern over the near year-long pandemic and the repercussions that come with this disease that is still on-going.

"People want to get the vaccine but can't," said Sidarsky. "The virus is still restricting and affecting people's everyday lives from loss of employment, childcare, loved ones, or rising medical bills due to getting the virus themselves."

Aside from COVID-19 concerns, she mentioned that because of the capitol riots, Americans must develop a trust in the new leaders.

"Leaders at all levels of government have a lot of work to do to rebuild trust as well

as get society back up and running in a post COVID-19 world that still looks to be months away," said Sidarsky.

Michael Promisel, Ph.D., a professor of political theory and African-American political thought at CCU, feels that although Biden's messages of endurance have established unity and a return to "normalcy," people are not leaving a divided America behind in the wake of this new presidency.

"For liberals, Biden's administration has provided a breath of fresh air and already lived up too many campaign promises, and so far, could exhibit the most progressive presidency in recent memory," said Promisel. "For conservatives, the promises of unity may be lost behind disappointment at the significant amount of executive action taken by Biden in his first few days."

He also mentioned that today it is common for Americans to voice what is "wrong" or "different" in American democracy. When looking back at history in a comparative perspective, not much has changed despite people denouncing a "civil war" or "national crisis" in America. There is no distinctive change that was made in the lives of Americans from January 19th to the 20th.

"American democracy remains unequivocally intact, despite what many are saying," said Promisel. "Transitions of power are no small feat, especially amidst a national crisis like a global pandemic. We should be careful to jump to quick judgment before losing faith in our institutions."

# SPORTS

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## Khyle Mingo to continue rugby career at Life University

Tyler Connolly // Reporter

Khyle Mingo, a senior and member of the club rugby team at Coastal Carolina University, has signed to continue his academic and rugby career at Life University in Marietta, GA.

Life University has the No.1 ranked chiropractic program in the world entailing a rigorous 14 quarter program for students wishing to pursue a Doctor of Chiropractic Degree. Life also has had the No.1 ranked rugby team for the past five years, won national championships in 2017/18, 2018/19, and 2019/20 and partners closely with Rugby ATL, the pro-team located in Atlanta.

Mingo said he has decided to sign at Life University because he is “surrounded by people who have his best interest at heart” and that his family, coaches, and teammates all helped to influence his decision.

The CCU club rugby team was founded

in 2004 and consists of around 40 players. Aside from the CCU baseball team, rugby is the only team with a national title (2009). The team has had over 75 all-star selections and one Olympic trial select.

Mingo will become the first Coastal rugby player to play for a D1 program and pro team. In addition to being a part of the club rugby team, Mingo is very active on CCU’s campus as the Student Government Association executive VP (2018-20), Lib Jackson Building manager (2018-20), a volunteer at the child development center on campus and a mentor to students with disabilities. Mingo was also student leader of the year during the 2019/20 school year.

Mingo began playing rugby his first year at CCU after transferring from The Citadel. He used the club rugby team as a way to meet new people since he didn’t know anyone when he arrived at Coastal Carolina.

He mentioned that the “hours of practice help to form a brotherhood” throughout the team and recounts days from his first year on the team where he was dragged out of his dorm by teammates to practice because they’re all “held responsible by each other.”

Mingo said he has met “guys I can call my brothers” through club rugby, as well as emphasized that the club sport department at CCU has various opportunities for students interested in just about anything. He urges anyone who is on the fence about trying out a club



//Photo courtesy of Khyle Mingo.

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# OP-ED

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## Miley Cyrus released new album, 'Plastic Hearts,' and you should listen to it

Alyssa L. Brennan // Editor-in-Chief

Miley Cyrus released her seventh studio album, 'Plastic Hearts,' on Nov. 27, 2020 which contains 15 songs with a total running time of 50 minutes and 26 seconds.

Cyrus tells a sad, but hopeful story through the album. The pop star experiments with more of a rock sound in this album, which she has done throughout her career. One of the first examples being "See You Again," one of the first tracks that really separated Miley from her Hannah Montana image and sound. The post-divorce influence appears throughout 'Plastic Hearts' in a sound that the Rolling Stone called, "New Wave rock" piece. It's a story of sadness, perseverance, moving on, strength and courage.

The album opens with "WTF do I know." An interesting thing that Cyrus does on this track and a few others on the album is a combination of upbeat music with sad lyrics. She sings, "Thought that it'd be you until I die but I let go," and we can all assume she is referring to her now ex-husband, Liam Hemsworth. The upbeat sounds with less-than happy lyrics is a great combination and fits for this story she is trying to tell, however. She does the same thing on the tracks "Plastic Hearts," "Gimme What I Want," and "Hate Me." The idea that moving on is difficult and hurts, but that there is hope and happiness waiting, is the message that comes across

throughout the album.

The beat slows down for tracks such as "Angels Like You," and "Golden G String." "Angels Like You" is the most emotional track on the album. Cyrus sings: "It's not your fault I ruin everything/ It's not your fault I can't be what you need." The raw emotion poured into this track makes it so powerful and one of my favorites on the album.

There are a few featured artists on this track such as Dua Lipa, Billy Idol, Joan Jett and Stevie Nicks. Nicks is featured on the "Midnight Sky" Remix, "Edge of Midnight." The collaborations were done well, but not the strongest part of the album. The album also includes two live versions: "Heart of Glass" and "Zombie." Overall, I enjoyed every track on the album and thought they tied together well.



//Photo courtesy of Pitchfork.

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THE  
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# Tips to help you succeed in online classes

Alyssa L. Brennan // Editor-in-Chief

## 1. Stay organized:

This one is probably the most important. Staying organized and keeping up with your schedule will ensure you get work done on time and eliminate unnecessary anxiety. Get a planner, put reminders in your phone, and hang up a calendar in your room.

## 2. Manage your time:

Don't procrastinate. Make a schedule for yourself and stick to it. Get your work done ahead of time and stay on task. But remember to also schedule breaks and take them when needed.

## 3. Have a designated spot for school work:

This will help cut down on distractions and keep you on task. You'll begin to associate that area with working and will likely be more productive in that space. If you use the same room or desk to do your work, all of your materials will be in the same place and you won't have to worry about losing anything.

## 4. Eliminate distractions:

It's easy to get unfocused with online/ Zoom classes, but it is important to stay engaged. The material is still important, and you'll retain more information and better understand the material if you pay attention to lectures and discussions. Try to find a quiet spot and participate in your classes.

## 5. Participate in class and use resources:

Take notes, actively listen to lectures and participate in discussions. Ask questions. Go to office hours and ask for help. You

are responsible for your education, so take advantage of the resources available to you on campus and virtually.

## 6. Take breaks:

Staring at the screen all day can be overwhelming. We attend our Zoom meetings, and then have a ton of online work to do. It can end up taking most of the day. It's so important to break up that time spent on the computer. Eat, go for a walk, clear your head. Otherwise, you can end up staring at the screen all day and still not get anything done.

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# The “Blinding Lights” of the Weeknd’s Super Bowl halftime show

Tyler Connolly // Reporter

The Weeknd invested seven million dollars of his own money into his halftime show that brought the Las Vegas strip to Raymond James Stadium on Sunday night.

With a neon set featuring casinos, bars, hotels, and skyscrapers, the singer donned his signature red suit with black gloves, an outfit that he has been sporting since the release of his “After Hours” album. Yet, this time the suit was covered entirely in rubies.

The Weeknd previously stated that this performance would be a family-friendly continuation of the story he has been telling in his music videos and performances for his “After Hours” album; it seems the performance did just that. Not all eight songs the singer performed were from his most recent album, but all were well known.

The performance started with “Starboy,” featuring a massive choir



The Weeknd performing at Raymond James Stadium with his background dancers. //Photo courtesy of The Chicago Tribune. .png

with glowing red eyes that gave the performance an eerie feel. He then moved onto songs like “The Hills” and “Can’t Feel My Face,” which featured the singer walking with the camera (with a fisheye lens attached) inside a bright mirror maze/fun house. Many viewers felt that this was odd, yet interesting because it was unlike anything seen at a halftime show.

While inside the mirror maze, many dancers emerged wearing outfits like the singer with bandages on their faces, a look that The Weeknd himself has coined at awards shows and in performances. He then performed “I Feel It Coming,” “Save Your Tears,” and “Earned It,” before moving to the field with his dancers concluding with “House of Balloons” and “Blinding Lights.”

The emergence of background dancers helped make up for The Weeknd’s lack of dancing, which was partly because the red jacket he was wearing weighed 40 pounds. The singer also had constant fireworks, sparks, and lights behind him, so the audience was not just watching him stand still while singing. The best part of the performance was when the show left the stage and moved to the field, where the dancers performed moves within a vast space and The Weeknd walked around freely. The performance concluded with a bang while the singer had dancers circling him, fireworks exploding, and sang his most popular song.

Overall, the halftime show was better than previous performances for viewers at home, since many could not attend due to COVID-19. The Weeknd delivered his promise to create an immersive and unique experience for those at home, and created a halftime show that many will remember for years to come.



# Why you need to try a milkshake from The Crazy Mason

Alyssa L. Brennan // Editor-in-Chief

The Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar is a locally owned and operated small business located inside the 810 Bowling Alley at 1220 Moser Drive in Myrtle Beach, opened from 3 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Ever since their opening, the line has wrapped around the building, as locals and tourists alike, wait for their turn to order their crazy dessert. Their menu is made up of truly cool and crazy creations. They use Blue Bell Ice Cream, and also have vegan and dairy free options. The Crazy Mason has also began doing to-go orders. When you place a to-go order, you get a lid for the milkshake, and all of your toppings in a box on the side. You basically get two full desserts when you order a milkshake.

I went to 810 and finally decided to give it a try since the line was shorter than I've ever seen it. I waited about 15 minutes before getting to the register, and the employee who took my order was kind and helpful. The dessert alone without tip was around \$15, which sounds like a lot, however, you get a good size milkshake topped with another full dessert, and you get to keep your mason jar. Not a bad price at all for the quality and quantity of the dessert. They have sinks set up by The Crazy Mason for customers to wash out their jars and bag them up to take home.

I ordered the "Oh my, Bleeding Heart," which is "Red Velvet ice cream in a cream cheese frosting iced jar rolled in white chocolate shavings. Topped with a slice of two-layer red velvet cake, whipped topping and chocolate sprinkles," The Crazy Mason Milkshake Bar's Facebook page said.

With other orders ahead of mine, it took about 30 minutes before mine came out, but it was worth the wait. It was delicious and enough to split with another person! I would absolutely recommend giving this place a try. If you love Red Velvet, get the "Oh my, Bleeding Heart."



This is what my order looked like when it came out! //Photo by Alyssa L. Brennan

## Trivia?

1. What is the rarest M&M color?
2. Which of Shakespeare's plays is the longest?
3. In ancient Greece, throwing an apple at someone was a declaration of what?

Answers: 1. Brown  
2. Hamlet  
3. Love

# Top Pita: you need to try this Mediterranean street food

Shelbi R. Ankiewicz // Assistant Editor

Top Pita is a Mediterranean restaurant that opened last November across the street from Coastal Carolina University's main campus.

I never had a clear understanding of what Mediterranean cuisine was; hummus and gyros always came to mind. After my visit to Top Pita, I learned about the wide range of foods I'd been missing out on.

Cucumbers, tzatziki sauce, Turkish mild salsa and onion sumac are all ingredients commonly associated with the Mediterranean culture. The cuisine is a mixture of sweet, spicy, bold and crunchy all at once.

"From breads to vegetables to oils, there are so many ingredients and dishes that are uniquely and iconically Mediterranean," said restaurant, Aleppo's Kitchen in an online article located on their website.

The owner of Top Pita is Max Garby, and his wife's name is Anna Garby. When speaking to Anna during a phone interview, she mentioned that they wanted a set up in the restaurant that was quick and fast for young people in the area, as well as the doctors and nurses at the local hospital.

The couple also wanted a faster, healthier alternative. Anna said that most college students eat fast food, because of the efficiency. Top Pita wants to bring that same efficiency but will healthy foods that are made fresh daily.

Every day the food is made, and the toppings are restocked so the containers are full and appealing. The spices used for the food are also brought straight from Israel, which is the couple's background.

When I first entered Top Pita, I instantly thought of Chipotle. The serving style is like a cafeteria. I walked up to the bar, chose my base, meat and toppings, as the employee made it right then.

I ordered pita bread as my base, beef and lamb shawarma as the meat and just to list some toppings: cucumbers, green spicy salsa, lettuce and onion sumac. I was then given an option of two sides, so I asked for rice and potatoes. When I received my food at the register it was placed on what seemed to be a pizza pan and taco holder. It was an interesting choice of dishware for the style of the restaurant, but it worked perfectly for my pita.

Once I paid for my food I sat down at a high-top table and began to eat. The pita was amazing; so many flavors all in one, different textures and it was layered with plenty of toppings. I then tried the rice, which tasted like normal, yellow rice, nothing too special. The last thing on my list was the potatoes. They were submerged in seasoning which added a robust amount of flavor. I believe I also tasted a hint of lemon. My only complaint is that they were very oily.

The service was efficient with two servers

behind the bar, but when I visited a second time only one person was working, and it took longer than expected because of the restaurants' set up. Once I approached the bar, I was directed to start my order on the right side, next to where the register is. Then I made my way back to the left towards the line. A customer behind me would step up thinking I am finished, and then move back again because I was heading in their direction.

The layout of the restaurant is simple. There is an ample amount of seating at high-tops or regular tables (no booths). Upon leaving the line there is a soda fountain machine and a fridge with bottled



A view of Top Pita's logo.// Photo by Shelbi R. Ankiewicz

drinks. There is also another cooler that contains various Mediterranean desserts. The walls are painted red and decorated with short phrases such as, "we love falafel," "always fresh," and "good food,

good times."

The prices are fair for the quality of the food. It was around \$10 for my meal with a fountain drink.

Overall, I enjoyed my experience. The food tasted great, the employees were polite, and the restaurant achieved a high level of cleanliness.

Top Pita is one of three businesses that the couple owns. They have another restaurant in downtown Myrtle Beach called Jerusalem Mediterranean Restaurant and Bar, and a flower shop on 50th Ave. N.

Max originally wanted to have Top Pita open until around 3 a.m., since that is when students are leaving parties and doctors may want something when leaving work. Yet, with COVID-19, plans are fluctuating, so the idea may be implemented in the future.

The restaurant currently does not offer a student discount but may implement a punch card system so that after several visits, one can obtain a free meal.

Top Pita is in the same plaza as Tongy's Shmack House and C3 Coffee Bar. Their phone number is (843)-331-3448.

## Sudoku #761 (Medium)

		5	6	2				
4					3			8
							9	
				3	6			4
	7							
9		4	5					
	9	1						3
3	6			1	2		8	
						6	2	

## Sudoku #762 (Medium)

	7			8				
8				5	7	1	2	
				1				3
	6			4				
3							5	
								1
5	4	1				9		
				4		2		7
				5	6			

Additional Sudoku puzzles as well as the solution to these two puzzles can be found at the following web page: <https://www.puzzles.ca/sudoku>



# Valentine's Day

Find and circle all of the words that are hidden in the grid.  
The remaining letters spell a popular Valentine's Day item.

P I H S D N E I R F D I P U C A L  
V D H S U R C A C F B A L E N D O  
N Y N T I A E A S O L C T O Y M V  
S R N E N S N L Y E H O I E R I E  
T L E D I D S F A O N T W S A R B  
R E Y S L R R E C T C T L E U E I  
A W S E R I F O N A I A I C R R R  
E E S E E E L L R D S O O M B S D  
H J C N S A V T R O N U N T E D S  
T G D N T O T O P I P O A S F N A  
E N Y E A A R O L L G C F E H I T  
E I S D U M R B E L O V E D B I G  
W L O D R P O A F F E C T I O N P  
S R E M A L F R R E N T R A P A R  
E A Y C N A F O R E V E R L I K E  
R D R O T I U S D N O I T O V E D

ADMIRER  
ADORE  
AFFECTION  
ATTRACTION  
BEAU  
BELOVED  
BOYFRIEND  
CANDLES  
CANDY  
CHOCOLATES

COUPLE  
CRUSH  
CUPID  
DARLING  
DATE  
DEAR  
DEVOTION  
FANCY  
FEBRUARY  
FLAME

FLOWERS  
FONDNESS  
FOREVER  
FRIENDSHIP  
GIFT  
GIRLFRIEND  
HEARTS  
JEWELRY  
LIKE  
LOVEBIRDS

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