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Wright State Student Body

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Juneteenth: History and Significance

Jamie Naylor

- June 13, 2022
- Culture Corner
- News

As the United States prepares to celebrate Juneteenth, Wright State University community members reflect on the holiday, its history and its personal meaning.

Historical Significance

On June 19, 1865 in Galveston TX, two years after President Abraham Lincoln established his Emancipation Proclamation, African American slaves were notified that the system of forced labor was now illegal in the US.

As former slaves celebrated their delayed freedom and America began a new chapter in its racial relations journey, June 19 became known as Juneteenth.

According to the [Texas State Library](#), Juneteenth celebrations began in 1866 with prayer services and community festivals. These celebrations spread throughout southern states and in 1980, Juneteenth became a Texas state holiday.

More recently, activists have pushed for national recognition of the holiday and its history. On June 18, 2021, President Joe Biden officially made Juneteenth a federal holiday. Now, many institutions, including WSU, are beginning to observe the holiday.

Federal Holiday Status

Juneteenth is a federal holiday with most Americans receiving the day off from work and school. Dr. Qatez Scott, outgoing intercultural specialist for the WSU Bolinga Black Cultural Resource Center, advocates for education and recognition of the holiday.

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“Celebrations shouldn’t begin and end with accepting a day off, but taking opportunities to learn about what the day is being celebrated,” Scott wrote.

Scott also sees this holiday as an opportunity for beginning conversations on systemic racism and the challenges Black Americans still face.

Continued Progress

While those like Scott approach the holiday with enthusiasm, others like Gary Neal, president of the Black Student Union, express mixed feelings about the holiday.

Neal notes that systemic racism still exists and that Juneteenth should not only be a celebration of Black history but a call to action on institutions to assist marginalized communities.

“I can see the effort. I think it’s amazing that it is a federal holiday now, but I just feel like it’s not enough,” Neal said. “It’s like okay thank you for the holiday but, there are still major systemic issues in our country that need to be addressed.”

Neal points to the difficulties of 2020, protests and the continuance of racial tensions in the US as points of improvement and topics to recognize and discuss during Juneteenth.

The University will be closed on Monday, June 20 in observance of the holiday.

Most anticipated movies of summer 2022.

- Emily Lewis
- June 14, 2022
- Arts & Entertainment
- Wright Life

As summer heats up, movie theaters offer a great place to cool down. Here are five movie releases to look out for over the summer.

Top Gun: Maverick

Released on May 27 as a sequel to the 1986 film, “Top Gun,” this movie brings back familiar characters along with new faces as Tom Cruise’s character, Pete “Maverick” Mitchell, trains new pilots for a special assignment.

Jennifer Connelly and Miles Teller also star in this feature film.

The Bob’s Burgers Movie

Also released on May 27, this animated film follows the Belchers family in a new adventure that is perfect for newcomers as well as fans of the original animated television series.

Viewers can travel along with the Belchers family as they deal with a sinkhole that has opened up in front of their restaurant in this musical comedy.

Jurassic World Dominion

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The finale of the “Jurassic World” trilogy, this is the sixth film overall in the “Jurassic Park” franchise. This movie follows Chris Pratt and Bryce Dallas Howard as characters Owen and Claire as they deal with new situations now that dinosaurs and humans are coexisting across the world.

The film was released on June 10 and features all three original “Jurassic Park” cast members, Jeff Goldblum, Laura Dern and Sam Neill.

Thor: Love and Thunder

A direct sequel to “Thor: Ragnarok,” and the 29th movie in the Marvel Cinematic Universe, Thor, played by Chris Hemsworth, must gather his crew to defeat Gorr the God Butcher, played by Christian Bale.

Natalie Portman returns to the “Thor” franchise in this film, as her character Jane Foster becomes the Mighty Thor, who can wield Thor’s hammer as well.

The movie releases in theaters on July 8.

Where the Crawdads Sing

Adapted from the book by the same name, this movie follows the story of a resourceful young woman, played by Daisy Edgar-Jones, who came of age in the swamps of the south. The plot thickens when she becomes the prime murder suspect in this thrilling mystery set in the 1950s.

The film is set to release in theaters on July 15.

Cooling System Issues Affect Dayton Campus

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- Jamie Naylor
- June 16, 2022
- News

Wright State University main campus experiences equipment failures affecting the campus cooling system during local heat wave.

Chiller Difficulties

Late Wednesday afternoon, the University facilities team notified the campus via email of several equipment failures in the cooling and air handler systems on the Dayton campus.

“The extreme outdoor air temperatures along with the severe thunderstorms Monday night have been very taxing on campus chillers and air handlers. In some cases, we’ve experienced equipment failures that have compounded our challenges,” the email states.

According to Seth Bauguess, WSU’s Director of Communications, an actuator broke in a main chiller and affected four buildings including the Student Union, Joshi Research Center, Hamilton Hall and the Student Success Center.

Temperatures in the Dayton and campus area have been exceptionally high with temperatures rising into the high 90s. The National Weather Service issued a heat advisory that remains in effect until 8 p.m, June 16.

According to Bauguess, maintenance is working on replacing the part and fixing the chiller system with repairs set to be complete late Thursday morning.

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