

THAT'S COOL!



ALLISON LEE ISLEY, JOURNAL

Nicole Gaboury (from left), skating director at the Greensboro Ice House, stands on the ice and talks with coaches Mariana Rello and Lucia Porosnicu-Hopinca.

Meet the lucky few who beat the heat working the Triad's coldest jobs

SUSIE C. SPEAR
Staff Reporter

It's been a long, hot summer.

And throughout it, Nicole Gaboury has reported to her Greensboro job, clad in black leggings and a black turtleneck hoodie, topped with a toasty goose-down puffer coat.

As skating director and figure skating instructor for the Greensboro Ice House, Gaboury counts herself among the lucky few who make their living in some of the Triad's coldest spots as historic heat waves baked the region this summer.

Labor Day may mark the official end of summer, but climate change means summers are stretching deeper into the autumn months, bringing higher than average heat to the Triad. And while a touch milder, weather for September will be persistently warm, hovering in the mid-80s, according to meteorologists.

"We do call the rink the coolest place in town. It rings true, year-round," said Gaboury, 55, who has counted more weekend visitors to the ice for public skating this summer than ever during her 23 years at the arena.

"In the summer it's especially nice to work and skate. It's a great escape," she says of the complex, with a temperature of about 50 degrees throughout summer.

The ice floor — 200-feet long and 85-feet wide — is held at a frosty 23 degrees and regularly resurfaced by specialized machines called Zambonis. Their drivers are rink managers who have another "cool job" of refining the rink surface multiple times a day.

"So when you are moving on ice, it feels heavenly. It's this dreamy cool feeling like a built-in air conditioner," said Gaboury, who glides on and off the ice about 12 hours a day, showing pupils moves like "loops" and "twizzles."

"The only downside — when you go outside, the heat feels more extreme," Gaboury said. "The heat is even more intense and the humidity hits you right in the face."

Inside the rink, Gaboury and her staff snatch tissues from Kleenex boxes all day long. "You get perpetual nose drip, especially from going outside and back inside — the temperature differential makes it drip."

And while the vast majority of Triad residents are cooling off with icy slush drinks to get through these scorching days, Gaboury and her fellow instructors huddle routinely around cups of hot coffee from the Wendover Avenue Starbucks, she said.

"I get a triple venti mocha — extra hot. Sometimes twice a day," said Gaboury, who switches to iced Coca-Colas or iced coffee when she's trying to beat the heat at home.

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Government shutdown looms as Congress returns

After monthlong recess, it remains unclear whether parties will work together

MARY CLARE JALONICK, KEVIN FREKING AND STEPHEN GROVES
Associated Press

Congressional Republicans scored a massive victory this summer when they passed President Donald Trump's bill of tax and spending cuts without a single Democratic vote. But as they return to Washington this fall after a monthlong August recess, they will have to find a way to work with Democrats — or around them — as a government shutdown looms.

The annual spending battle will dom-

inate the September agenda, along with a possible effort by Senate Republicans to change their chamber's rules to thwart Democratic stalling tactics on nominations. The Senate is also debating whether to move forward on legislation that would slap steep tariffs on some of Russia's trading partners as the U.S. pressures Russian President Vladimir Putin on Ukraine.

In the House, Republicans will continue their investigations of former President Joe Biden while Speaker Mike Johnson navigates a split in his conference over whether the Trump administration should release more files in the Jeffrey Epstein investigation.

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RAHMAT GUL, ASSOCIATED PRESS

A U.S. Capitol Police officer walks in front of the U.S. Capitol on Aug. 22 in Washington.