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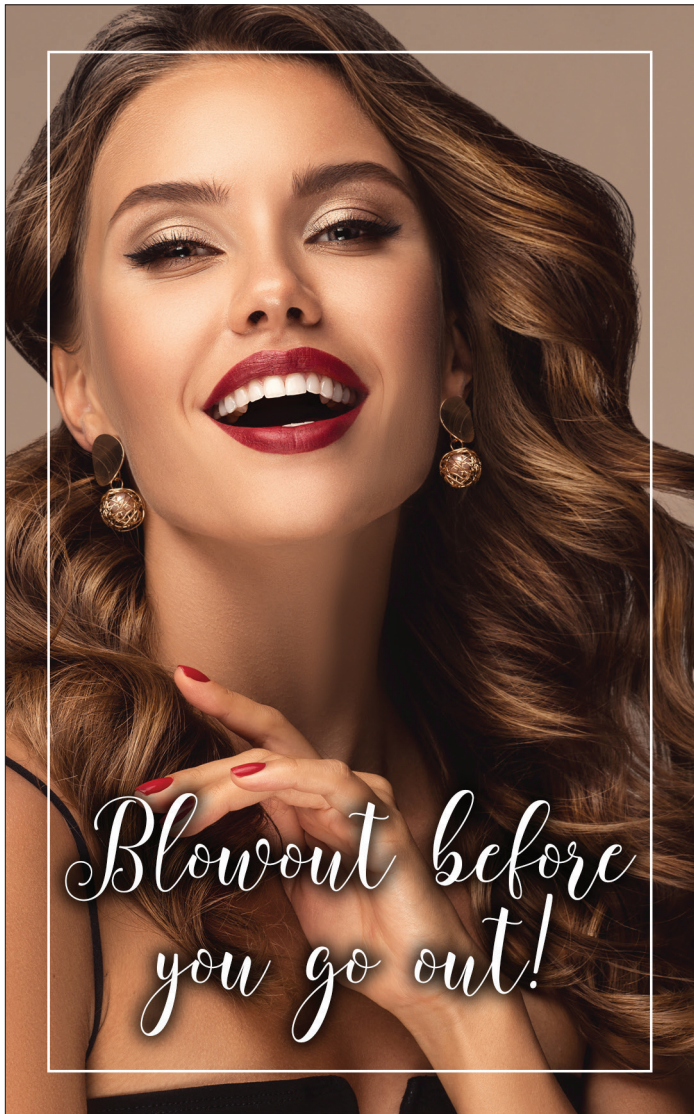




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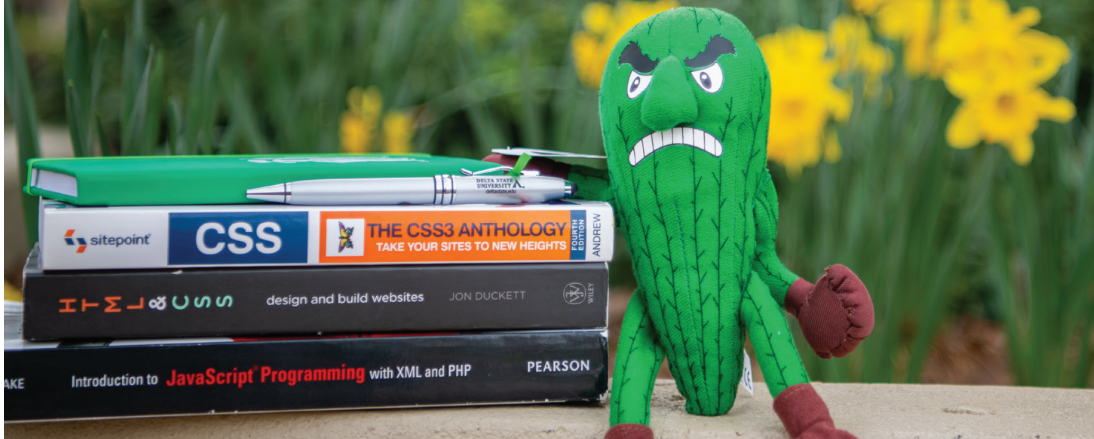
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# MARTINI MADNESS

by Duncan Dent

It is not the first cocktail but it is hard to come up with a cocktail that more clearly and simply defines the whole as the martini.

It is an American staple as original as jazz and like jazz, feels like it should have existed long before it was codified. The writer H.L. Mencken compared the drink to Renaissance poetry calling the Martini “the only American invention as perfect as the sonnet.”

Unlike a good martini, the origins of the cocktail are unclear. Perhaps the name comes from the Martini brand of vermouth but it could also be a variation of the Martinez cocktail which was served in the 1860s at the Occidental Hotel in San Francisco.

Both drinks start appearing in print in the 1880s however and by 1922 the drink had reached the form we know today, bracingly cold and beautifully clear with a small bit of vermouth taming the rougher edges of a clear spirit, usually gin or vodka.

Form that base of two parts gin or vodka and one part vermouth, a bartender really has a blank canvas to begin to riff and iterate. Classics include the addition of a lemon twist or skewer of olives for garnish. The drink is generally served as an aperitif to whet your appetite.

I always think of the scene from the season four episode of *Mad Men*, “Waldorf Stories”, in which the advertising agency at the center of the show is sent into some disarray after executives launch a multi-day celebration after receiving a prestigious industry award. Roger Sterling declines Don Draper’s offer of lunch with a characteristically pithy “, I’m stuffed. I had a jar of olives,” while holding a martini.

Part of the beauty of the martini is its androgynous nature. Can be equally enjoyed by men and women alike and like the above-mentioned scene has made a number of appearances in many variations of popular culture.

It is used for comic effect in *Scrubs*. Perhaps the most central character to the show, Dr. John “J.D.” Dorian has a taste for appletinis- “easy on the tini.” This calls for three parts vodka, one part apple-flavored liqueur and one part Cointreau.

The drink gets more contorted and exotic as you move forward. The girls on *Sex and the City* famously drank vibrant pinkish-red Cosmopolitans and crew and guests alike on *Bravo’s Below Deck* have prominently enjoyed espresso martinis while sailing to exotic locations.

No matter how you pour it, this drink

can be enjoyed year-round. It is boozy enough to fortify the soul during the cold months and is best served so bracingly cold it cools the body on the hottest day.

Southern Chef Frank Stitt, renowned for his Italian restaurant Bottega in Birmingham, includes a refreshing and easy to make riff on the classic formula that takes a martini with a twist of lemon and runs with it. He uses an ounce of limoncello, an ounce of citron-flavored vodka and half an ounce of lemonade. While it appears to have cycled off his current menu, it is included in his Italian cookbook “*Bottega Favorita*” as a signature cocktail among a host of other variations on the classic drink using fresh fruits and summer ingredients.

We recommend you try as many variations as you can this summer. As you master the basics you can probably come up with something drinkable on your own. We recommend trying the below recipe which uses hibiscus and makes us think of abundant flowers during the late spring and early summer.

If you practice maybe you can even have one of these recipes perfected by World Martini Day, June 19.



# MAKE YOUR OWN

---

## INGREDIENTS:

2 ounces vodka  
1/2 an ounce of Cointreau  
1 ounce of lime juice  
3/4 of an ounce of hibiscus syrup  
lemon peel and edible orchid for garnish

## DIRECTIONS:

To make the hibiscus syrup gather one cup of water, 2 tablespoons of hibiscus tea and 1 cup of superfine sugar. Bring one cup of water to a boil and add one teabag of hibiscus tea and let steep for ten minutes. Take the tea bag out and add one cup of superfine sugar and stir until dissolved. Keep refrigerated until ready to use.

For the Martini, combine the vodka, Cointreau, lime juice and hibiscus tea syrup into a shaker filled with ice and shake vigorously. Strain into a chilled martini glass and garnish.

# VEGETABLE GARDENING

By Jana Hoops

Following a national trend, Madison County residents' interest in summer vegetable gardening has seen a steady rise since the COVID pandemic took up roots here – and around the world – early in 2020.

Nick Thompson, owner of Madison Garden Center in Madison, said the resurgence of home gardening began as a byproduct of the slowdowns and shutdowns endured by many Americans that year, as they spent more time at home.

“Thanks to the combination of COVID, the shortages of groceries, and government decisions, people have become a little nervous” about the uncertainties of possible food scarcities, he said. “That self-sustaining movement of producing your own food at home has increased. The sale of fruit trees and the increase of vegetable gardening has surely gone up.”

Along with this trend, Thompson said, more customers are asking for natural, eco-friendly, and sustainable organic products.

“Self-sustainability is very popular,” he said. “Being eco-friendly has been a consideration for years, but with more edible plants being used we have gotten even more cautious. Sales of organic soil conditioners and the Fox Farm organic potting soil have been increasing heavily the past three years, along with a lot of natural products to manage weeds, bugs, and diseases.”



## WHAT'S IN YOUR GARDEN?

In Mississippi, the most popular vegetables that summer gardeners are looking for are the “old standbys” that include tomatoes (“still the most popular”), followed by peppers, eggplant, cucumbers, squash, potatoes, cantaloupe, watermelon, strawberries, okra, peas, butterbeans, snapbeans, corn, and others. In the fall, the cool season crops of lettuce, greens, broccoli, cauliflower, onions, and radishes are favorites, Thompson said.

Trending among newer items for today's gardens are nasturtiums and pansies, “the most popular edible flowers,” Thompson said. The biggest new differences in herbs and vegetables, he said, are that there are more improved varieties that allow better production and pest and disease control.

“The actual selection has not changed much, but we are offering a lot more varieties,” he noted.

Culinary and aromatherapy herbs continue to be in demand, with rosemary, thyme, oregano, and basil topping the list, Thompson said. “They have also been on the increase the last three years.”

Trending in herb production is the preference of many gardeners to grow herbs separately in boxes or pots just outside the kitchen door, allowing an extra level of convenience and freshness for home cooks.

For those new to gardening, Thompson recommends starting with some basics.

“Okra, squash, tomatoes, peppers, and potatoes are probably the best for beginners,” he said. “In the fall, greens such as kale, turnip greens, and mustard greens are the easiest. I would recommend playing with the other crops to learn. As for herbs, I would recommend whatever you want to flavor with. Rosemary, thyme, and oregano are the easiest to grow.”

All gardeners can make things a little easier by choosing vegetables that grow best in Mississippi, Thompson said. In addition to the list above, he includes cucumbers, cantaloupes, watermelons, strawberries, peas, butterbeans, snapbeans, and corn. In the fall, plant the cool season crops of lettuce, greens, broccoli, cauliflower, onions and radishes.

## POLLINATOR ATTRACTOR GARDENS ARE ON THE RISE

Did you know that growing a pollinator garden, or just having a few attractor plants for birds, bees, and butterflies, can improve your food plant yields?

Drawing more pollinators to your garden helps ensure that all your plants, edible or not, can be fully pollinated and ready to flourish.




The growing interest in pollinator gardens “is partly because of their beauty and also for the pollinators that go from flower to flower to set the fruit in our edibles,” Thompson said. “Most of these gardens consist of perennials like salvias, coreopsis, butterfly weed, purple coneflowers, black eyed Susans, lantana and many others. We have helped a lot of customers with the design and selections of these plants, and we will also mix in some annuals here and there.”

## ALTERNATIVE GARDEN DESIGNS

Mimi Martinson, owner of Martinson's Garden Works in Ridgeland, confirms that the pandemic has indeed created a ripple effect of customers just now developing a new interest in home gardening.

"It has definitely increased the number of gardeners seeking to grow their own food," she said. "Growing your own food provides two important components: it develops a feeling of the self-sufficiency that previous generations understood, and it is also a great family activity for all ages."

But not all gardens have to be alike, Martinson says, noting that there is a plethora of options now for how you approach vegetable gardening. Below, she highlights some of the biggest trending options that can free you from the traditional plot in your backyard that demands a sunny spot, constant weeding, and a pair of sturdy knees.

- 
 Patio-friendly wooden planter boxes of varying heights, widths, and depths - These add cheer and warmth to your patio or backyard, and you can rearrange them as you like.
- 
 Low raised beds that feature wheels on the bottom, or waist-height raised beds with legs and/or wheels - These beds can help you skip much of the time spent hoeing or pulling weeds, and they can eliminate much of the bending and kneeling of traditional gardening. You can also easily move these "portable gardens" around as you wish, taking advantage of the best sunlight or shade conditions.
- 
 Container gardening - This can work well for beginner gardeners, senior citizens, apartment dwellers with balconies, or anyone who may only want to grow a couple of vegetables or herbs. This method continues to grow in popularity for gardeners with less time or space.

Popular materials for containers include wood, terracotta, clay, stone, resin, plastic, and metals. You may even want to recycle objects in your home, as you can get creative and turn them into colorful and functional receptacles.

When choosing the size of containers you will need, Martinson advises that you first make sure each container or pot is a good fit for what you'd like to plant. Get creative with colors and textures when pairing two or three plants into one large container, and make sure the water, sunlight and soil requirements are similar. Mixing vegetable plants with fruits and/or herbs in the same pot is also a fun idea, but be careful of overcrowding.

For interesting visuals, place containers of varying heights, colors, and textures together. As the plants grow, they'll take on different looks and you can spread them apart as you wish.

Experience the joy of gardening this spring or summer, even if time or resources limit you to a few favorite herbs, a couple of tomato plants, or maybe a small plot of pollinator attractors to bring bees, birds, and butterflies to your outdoorsy spot.

Whatever level of gardening you may take up this season, you'll be surprised how much you'll enjoy watching your plants grow and change throughout this spring and summer - and it just may cultivate a lifetime interest as it continues to grow on you!





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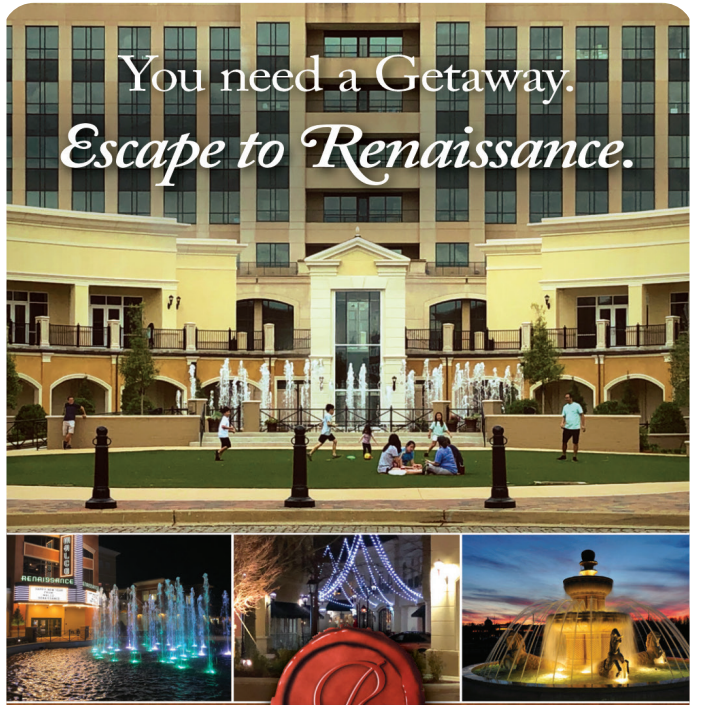
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# CANTON

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# MAGNOLIA'S HOLLYWOOD

by Mark Stowers



Canton became a town in 1836 but became a Hollywood star in the 1990s. The county seat of Madison County has long been a gathering place for business and the legal doings but the central Mississippi picturesque hamlet has become a favorite of the motion picture industry. Ever since Matthew McConaughey came to town to conquer his first leading man role in a feature film, *A Time to Kill*, the first John Grisham novel to get the Hollywood big screen treatment, the city has had key lights and gaffers and more scurrying about.

Jo Ann Gordon was instrumental in getting that first film to town, with plenty of help from the Mississippi Film Commission, volunteers and many others who helped make Hollywood executives smile with success.

“I came to work for the Canton Redevelopment Authority in 1987 and we kind of took on the role of the economic development agencies,” Gordon said. “We had films start to look at us. The first one, was ‘A Worn Path,’ a Eudora Welty film. From there it followed one right after the other.”

Gordon, a Winona native, came to Canton after attending Memphis State University (now University of Memphis). Her memories of the local Winona theatres whet her appetite to hopefully become a Hollywood actress. The family trip to visit relatives in Los Angeles only heated that desire. “This was all I wanted to do,” she said.

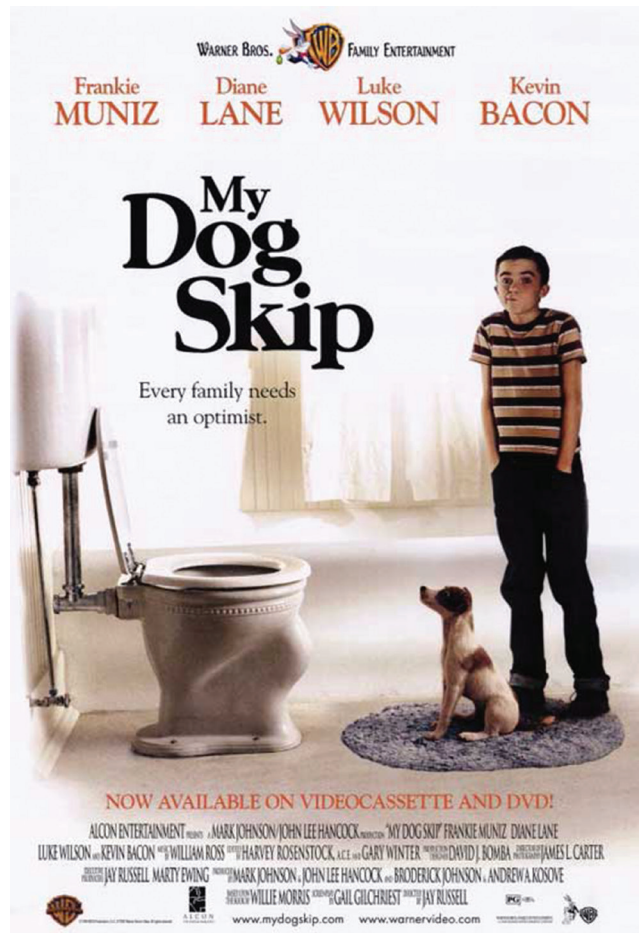
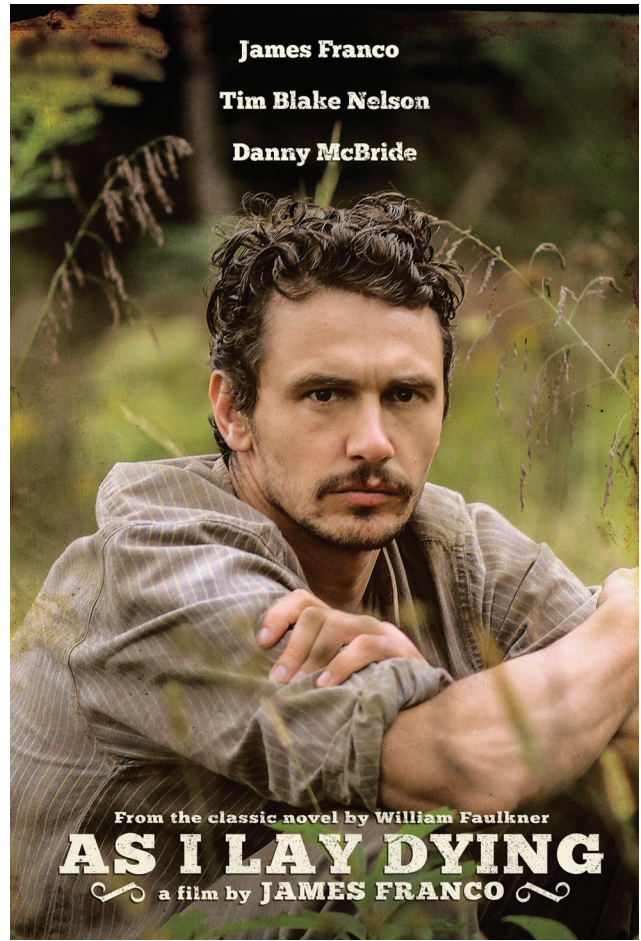
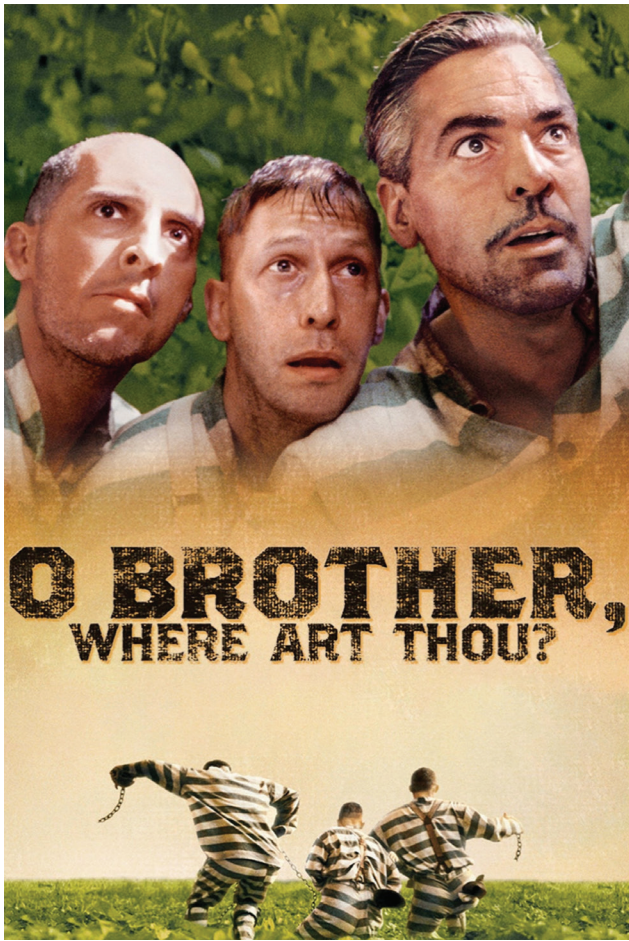
Her parents instructed her to write a letter to her LA cousin asking her to contact Hollywood studios on her behalf. Cousin Bobbie then wrote back informing Gordon that she had indeed talked to every studio and they had offered some sound advice for the young thespian.

“They all want you to come and be a part of acting. But they want you to do is finish school first. Get your education and then they’d love to have you come and audition and be part of that world,” she said.

After high school where she took part in plays and musicals and watching her dreams on the big screen each Saturday, she kept working toward her own Hollywood dream. But after college, she decided acting wouldn’t be her world and she came to Canton.

“I always helped community theatre there and ‘A Worn Path’ came and that tweaked my interest again. Then I had a producer and director contact me from ‘In the Heat of the Night’ (TV show),” she said. “They were moving it from Hammond, Louisiana and were looking for a new location.”

After considering Canton where Gordon set the entertainment table with as much



benefits as possible, it came down to the production choosing Covington, Georgia where the work crew had a home base. But her tenacity to get them there, gave the TV production the idea to create a character in Jo Ann's honor.

"I decided to zero in on film as an economic engine for the community," she said. "And that was before the tax incentives."

Major motion pictures, independent films, commercials, documentaries and more found their way to Madison County to explore Canton and all it had to offer film makers. When *A Time to Kill* set up in town, a 36,000-square foot soundstage was built as well as other sets. One, the coffee shop, still remains as one visitors can tour and is a museum. The rest of the sets are still in town as well.

"We have what's real and you don't have to build as much," Gordon said. "They built the court room set and the rotunda set."

Gordon noted that all four major literary influences from Mississippi – Eudora Welty, William Faulkner, John Grisham and Willie Morris have all had their writing work

memorialized in film and filmed in Canton.

Morris' "My Dog Skip," was filmed in 1998, creating 996 jobs and had an economic impact of more than \$2.8 million dollars. In 1999, "The Rising Place" was filmed in town but the jobs created and economic impact figures were not calculated. Also in 1999, George Clooney spent plenty of time in the area filming "O Brother Where Art Thou," creating 1,483 jobs and bringing more than \$5.1 million dollars to the local economy. In 2000, "The Ponder Heart" was filmed but the impact numbers were not calculated.

When *A Time to Kill* was made in Canton in 1995, it created over 500 jobs and brought a \$5,308,340.93 economic impact to the area. Even more to the entire state. James Franco filmed a version of Faulkner's "As I Lay Dying" in the area in 2013. Canton became known as "The Film Capital of Mississippi."

The area has become a favorite for in the film industry. Even those visiting while working have come and gone with a great impression of Canton and it's filming capa-



bilities.

John Samson, Construction Coordinator for "A Time to Kill" and a 40-year film industry veteran, enjoyed coming to the Magnolia State and Canton in particular to work.

"All of the people we met and worked with over the six-month project were most hospitable and helpful," Samson said. "Each and every one of our local crew members, local hardware, lumber and paint vendors and especially the Canton film office graciously assisted us throughout the building of the scenery, often filling our unusual orders for products unique to the film business and finding different local materials as superior substitutes. It was a refreshing change from the 'business as usual' we become accustomed to in Hollywood."

Samson enjoyed being "adopted" by the local community and experienced true southern hospitality.

"Many of us were from the Los Angeles area and were made to feel right at home throughout the late spring, summer and fall," he said. "The base of operations pro-

vided for us on the square allowed a unique opportunity for those of us in the Art Department to feel ourselves a part of the community, something that is uncommon in most filming locations. The people in Canton opened themselves up to us and our project, making the experience and the product much better for it. I know that I echo the sentiments of many of my fellow department heads with whom I have worked in the years since. We recall our time in Canton, Mississippi with fondness and gratitude for the people of the town and with a great deal of satisfaction about the quality of the film, 'A Time To Kill.'"

With so many productions taking place in and around Canton, the area has become a destination for many to explore making it an industry all its own.

"Jack Phillips from Phillips Tours in Winona, Minnesota brings a group to Canton for the Movie Museums," Gordon said. "He was just here in February and has already booked for 2023."

The film industry in Canton continues to thrive and seeks to educate young minds

interested in it all. The Canton Young Filmmakers Workshops seeks to teach and reach out to youngsters.

"We partner with the Mississippi Film Office and that started back in 2003," Gordon said. "I have many students who have gone through our program who have gone onto major in film. Some are working in the industry."

A recent movie came to town in December and wrapped in March. Others are also on the books to make Canton their movie home. With all of that interest over the years, the Wall Street Journal and even CBS's 48 Hours Program have been in town to tout the Canton movie industry story. Gordon is continually looking for more film partners to visit.

"The challenge is to get them to town and pair them with the right locations," Gordon said. "It's like paring a glass of wine with the right entrée. I'm trying to marry the right fits. If you do that, they have a tremendous experience."

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# DR. SAM POLLES RETIRES FROM MDWFP

By Jana Hoops

**A**s the longest-serving executive director of the Mississippi Department of Wildlife, Fisheries, and Parks (MDWFP), Dr. Sam Polles and his team of 600 to 1,000 dedicated people (including seasonal workers) in all 82 counties in Mississippi have worked tirelessly to bring residents the best outdoor programs and facilities available anywhere.

With his retirement this past February, Polles looks back after nearly three decades with pride and optimism about the accomplishments of the MDWFP staff and the opportunities to continue that trend into the future.

“MDWFP is one of a very few agencies that touches the lives of citizens across this state every single day,” Polles said. “Whether they’re hunters, anglers, or outdoor enthusiasts or not, this agency directly or indirectly touches the lives of all Mississippians in some way. And while our primary mission is to provide quality outdoor recreational

opportunities for residents and visitors of Mississippi, we are also heavily involved in research, education, and public safety.”

Since he was invited to interview with then-Gov. Kirk Fordice for this position in 1992, Polles has served as executive director under the leadership of five governors.

Long before Polles took the reins of the MDWFP, he was already a hard worker. By age 12, he was sweeping and mopping floors, washing dishes and cooking on a flat iron griddle at the Clarksdale restaurant owned and run by three generations of his family over a 60-year period. It was here that he learned from everyday experience what was expected to get the job done right and on time.

And it was during those years that he was introduced to the outdoor pursuits of hunting and fishing, thanks to his extended family.

“My dad worked 17 hours a day at the restaurant, from 5 a.m. to midnight, seven days

a week, so my grandfather would take me out quail hunting, and my uncle John would take me out fishing and hunting,” he said. “I always enjoyed it and I was grateful they could be my first mentors for teaching me about hunting and fishing.”

After graduating from Clarksdale High School, Polles continued his education at then Delta State College in pre-med/pre-dental studies, then to Mississippi State University, where he earned both a master’s and doctoral degree. From there he went on to hold positions with the University of Georgia’s extension and research facility; the U.S. Department of Agriculture in Stoneville, Miss.; and the Bass Pecan Company, a multi-million-dollar business with holdings in oil, gas, orchard, and nursery operations. He also managed, and eventually held part ownership of the Long Leaf Plantation and Hunting Preserve near Hattiesburg, followed by consultant work with interests in Georgia.

His next career move would prove to be his best fit.

“I could have never imagined in 1992 that this opportunity would evolve into a life’s calling that would endure for nearly three decades,” Polles said. “During this time, I have been blessed to work with one of the most capable, committed, and talented teams of professional public servants found anywhere, at any level of government. The men and women of this Department are often not appreciated for their tireless efforts, but they remain steadfast in their commitment to preserve Mississippi’s rich and historic conservation heritage for generations to come.”

Polles is quick to point out the strong economic impact the agency has on Mississippi.

“Outdoor recreation is a multi-billion-dollar industry,” he said. “Our state parks, state lakes, and wildlife management areas draw locals and tourists from all over the country, producing jobs for these communities all over Mississippi.”

Polles also praised the professionalism of the MDWFP’s law enforcement bureau, made up of men and women whose duties cover far more than those of game wardens.

These bureau employees are among the state’s first responders during natural disasters and state emergencies, and they are “highly trained” and equipped professionals with the statutory authority to enforce not only the conservation and natural resources laws, but state and federal laws as well.

The MDWFP also works with other state conservation agencies to create awareness and education for Mississippi’s young people about natural resource conservation pro-







grams, hoping to catch their attention and build their interest in a lifetime of outdoor pursuits.

These efforts include programs conducted by the Museum of Natural Science, the North Mississippi Fish Hatchery and Education Center, Archery in Schools, and a growing competitive clay shooting skills program for high school and college students, to name a few. The agency also sponsors fishing rodeos, hunter education programs, and many other events.

Now that he has stepped down from his day-to-day duties at the MDWFP, the former director is settling into a new role as he enjoys time with his family.

Polles and his wife Mary Margaret, both natives of the Mississippi Delta, are celebrating their 55th anniversary this June. They are the parents of three sons, and grandparents to seven grandsons, ranging in age from 3 to 27. He and Mary Margaret now live in Lake Caroline in Madison County.

“I want to spend more time with my

grandchildren and travel a bit,” he said. “Yellowstone National Park is on my bucket list, and overseas, I want to see the Greek island of Skopelos, where my grandparents on my father’s side were from. The island is also known for being the location the movie *Mamma Mia!* was filmed.”

He also plans to enjoy his favorite outdoor activities of duck and turkey hunting with his sons and grandsons.

“I have many great memories of enjoying these sports with my sons as they were growing up,” he said. “And now, I love watching my grandkids playing sports and being in the outdoors with them.”

Polles is proud of the accomplishments the MDWFP achieved during his tenure, and he is confident the agency will continue to flourish.

“The MDWFP’s mission continues to be relevant,” he said. “We have made many improvements, we continue to look for new revenue sources through grants and other sources, and the parks continue to be funded. We have a good marketing staff that continues to promote our assets. The agency is on the right track.”

Ultimately, bringing children and families back outdoors has always been the goal.

“In the past you grew up being introduced to outdoor activities like hunting and fishing by your father or grandfather or a family mentor, Polles said. “Now children and parents are more engaged indoors. The activities that our agency promotes encourage families to spend more time outdoors and enjoy the resources Mississippi offers. I’m proud of that.”



The Polles family.



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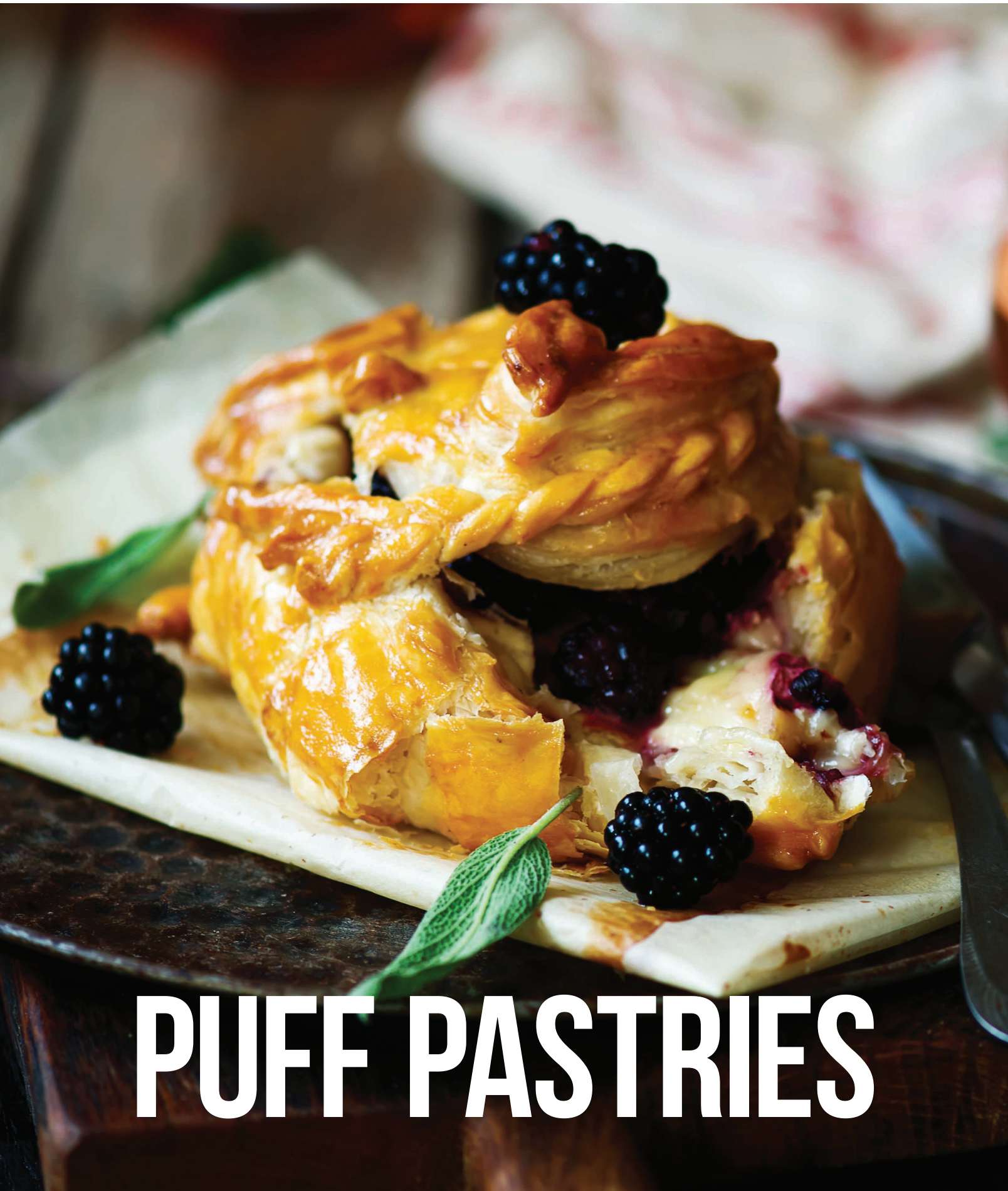
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# PUFF PASTRIES



## IN THE KITCHEN



*With International Chef David Raines*  
The Flora Butcher & Dave's Triple B Restaurant

As we move into the warmer months, we are preparing to open our next big venture in Flora, Mississippi. The Flora Butcher was our first venture immediately embraced by thousands of customers in central Mississippi. That following extended to Alabama, Louisiana, Texas, Tennessee and Arkansas. This was followed by Dave's Triple B: Barbecue, Beer & Blues Restaurant which has won raves from both locals and food enthusiasts from around the country. Now we prepare our third Flora business, Raines Cellars. We will be offering fine wines and rare spirits, as well as familiar labels of a certain high quality. Our team has gone to Kentucky to pick our own bourbon barrel picks and travel to the West Coast to buy rare one of a kind wines at auction. All these labels will be available for sampling at our in-store tasting bar. Our culinary staff will be creating special dishes that are compliment by specific wines and spirits.

The cheese selections at the Flora Butcher always include a brie option but we occasionally have brie en croute in our freezer as well. When local fruits are in season, it's a fun way to use them as a filling to top the brie before sealing it in puff pastry. I recommend making this for parties because of the flavor and the visual appeal.



## STEP 1

The longest part of the process is making a fruit compote but it is a simple and there are lots of options on additional spices. In this case I used mandarin oranges but you can use any fruit. I added 3 mandarin's worth of skinless segments or "supremes" to a small pot with 2 cups of water and a quarter cup of raw sugar. Place the pot over medium heat and allow to cook until half of the water has evaporated. With a whisk, break up the fruit and stir the mixture. Reduce the heat to the point it is at a gentle simmer. Keep an eye on it and continue to cook until the mixture resembles a loose paste. Remove from the heat and allow it to cool.

## STEP 2

While your fruit topping is cooling, remove your puff pastry from the freezer and allow it to warm up. It needs to be soft enough to roll out but never let it get to room temp. Puff pastry is simply butter placed between two pieces of dough and rolled out flat. It is then folded and rolled out again to create 2 layers of butter. That is then folded to create 4 layers and so on and so forth until you end up with hundreds of layers of butter. That is what makes it "puff" but it also requires that it stay cold.

On a floured surface place your puff pastry and sprinkle flour on top of it. Then roll it out evenly until it is about 40-50% bigger than what you started with.

## STEP 3

While working a million Sunday Brunches in New Orleans, I came to appreciate a little gadget known as a hash brown ring. Ring mold sets aren't big enough for things like this but these rings come in a variety of sizes and I highly recommend getting a few larger ones if you like to play with puff pastry.

Off to one side of center, Place an 8-9 ounce wheel of brie on the puff pastry. Place your cold fruit mixture on the brie and smooth it out so it covers the top completely. At this point you can use a knife or a large ring mold to cut a circle about 2 inches outside the edge of the brie. Then cut a slightly larger round of puff pastry out as you will need it as a top.

## STEP 4

Whisk an egg until smooth and use a pastry brush to paint your eggwash onto the exposed puff pastry around the brie. Place the larger piece of puff pastry over the top and gently press it into place around the brie. At this point, some people like the use a fork to crimp the puff pastry together to create a design around the base. I like the cleaner look so I use one of my trusty hash brown rings to cut off the excess pastry in a perfect circle.

## STEP 5

Decorations! This is fun and you can hardly go wrong with anything you want to try. Just take the remaining puff pastry and start trying to cut out shapes like leaves or berries of anything that appeals to you. Brush the encased brie with eggwash and add your puff pastry decorations. Afterwards gently apply eggwash to the top of them. At this point I sometimes add the type of fruit that I used to the top for color.

## STEP 6

Move the brie to a cookie sheet lined with wax paper. Bake in a 400 degree oven until golden brown, turning occasionally if one side gets dark faster. Anywhere from 15- 25 minutes usually.

One note is to check the paper after the first minute to make sure your oven's fan isn't too high and blowing the paper over your brie. Have some small metal pieces or silverware handy to pin it down if need be.

## STEP 7

Wait.

You want to serve the brie warm but not hot. Give it 30 minutes to rest so that you won't end up with a lake of cheese and an empty pastry shell. It will still be gooey and oozing out when you cut it. If you prefer it so be more solid, you can finish it an hour ahead of time so that it is warm but easier to cut off a piece and place it on a plate.

I paired this dish with a Monkey Shoulder, a blended scotch whisky. Scotch in general is nice with harder aged cheeses but with the brie it needed a softer approach than one of the heavy scotches. It has a very malty, creamy flavor with hints of buttered toast and butterscotch. It pairs well with any sort of citrus so it is nice with the mandarins.

If you think that you do not like scotch, you should give this one a try. It may surprise you. We keep a bottle open at the tasting bar at Raines Cellars for that very reason.



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# SWEET SUMMER TREATS

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SUMMER MENU







## BLUEBERRY TART

### INGREDIENTS

1 cup all-purpose flour  
2 tablespoons sugar  
1/8 teaspoon salt  
1/2 cup cold butter  
1 tablespoon vinegar

#### *filling:*

4 cups fresh blueberries, divided  
2/3 cup sugar  
2 tablespoons all-purpose flour  
1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon  
1/8 teaspoon ground nutmeg

### DIRECTIONS

In a small bowl, combine flour, sugar and salt; cut in butter until crumbly. Add vinegar, tossing with a fork to moisten. Press onto bottom and up the sides of a lightly greased 9-in. tart pan with removable bottom. For filling, lightly smash 2 cups blueberries in a bowl. Combine the sugar, flour, cinnamon and nutmeg; stir into smashed blueberries. Spread mixture evenly into crust; sprinkle with 1 cup of the remaining whole blueberries. Place tart pan on a baking sheet. Bake at 400° for 40-45 minutes or until crust is browned and filling is bubbly. Remove from the oven; arrange remaining berries over top. Cool on a wire rack. Store in the refrigerator.

# COCONUT ICE-CREAM

## INGREDIENTS

- 3 (13.5-ounces) cans full-fat coconut milk
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- 3/4 teaspoon kosher salt
- 1 vanilla bean
- 2 tablespoons cornstarch
- 2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract

## DIRECTIONS

The day before you plan to churn, freeze the bowl of your ice cream maker. Since your ice cream base will need to chill as well, we suggest making it the night before, too.

In a medium saucepan over medium heat, add coconut milk, sugars, and salt. Using a paring knife, cut vanilla bean in half lengthwise. Scrape the inside out with the back of a knife and add to coconut mixture. Bring to a boil and stir until sugars are dissolved.

Place cornstarch in a small bowl. Ladle out about 1 cup of boiling coconut milk and add to cornstarch, whisking until dissolved. Pour slurry into saucepan and stir to combine. Reduce heat and let simmer until mixture is thickened, about 3 minutes. To check if your mixture is thick enough, coat the back of a wooden spoon and swipe your finger through it. Your finger should leave a clean line. Remove from heat.

Whisk in vanilla extract, then pour mixture into a large bowl and refrigerate until completely chilled, 3 hours and up to overnight.

When your custard is chilled and your ice cream maker bowl is frozen, churn ice cream according to manufacturer's instructions, about 15 minutes. When ice cream is soft-serve consistency, transfer to a freezer-safe container and freeze until hardened, 2 to 3 hours, up to overnight.



# RASPBERRY TIRAMISU

## INGREDIENTS

3 cups heavy cream  
3/4 cups powdered sugar  
2 teaspoons pure vanilla extract  
12 ounces mascarpone  
3 cups strongly brewed coffee  
1/4 cups Grand Marnier  
36 ladyfingers  
1/2 cups raspberry jam  
12 ounces fresh raspberries  
Chocolate shavings, for garnish

## DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, using a hand mixer (or in the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the whisk attachment), beat cream, powdered sugar, and vanilla until medium peaks form.

In a medium bowl, add mascarpone and about 1/4 cup of whipped cream. Stir until combined, then gently fold in the remaining whipped cream.

In a large glass measuring cup, combine coffee and Grand Marnier.

Spread a thin layer of whipped cream in the bottom of a large trifle dish. Working one at a time, quickly dip 1 ladyfinger into coffee mixture, then place into dish. Place dipped ladyfingers in a circle until bottom is completely covered, breaking ladyfingers as needed to fit. Spread about a third of the whipped cream over ladyfingers into an even layer. Spread half of the jam over top, gently to not mix the whipped cream in too much. Then place raspberries in a circle over jam. Repeat with a second layer of ladyfingers, whipped cream, jam, and raspberries. Add a third layer of dipped ladyfingers, then top with remaining whipped cream.

Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate until well chilled, at least 4 hours, or up to overnight.

When ready to serve, top with chocolate shavings.



## PEACH COBBLER

### INGREDIENTS

Two 15-ounce cans sliced peaches  
in syrup  
1/2 cup (1 stick) butter  
1 cup self-rising flour  
1 cup sugar  
1 cup milk  
Homemade Whipped Cream

### DIRECTIONS

Preheat the oven to 350 degrees F. Drain 1 can of peaches; reserve the syrup from the other. Place the butter in a 9- by 12-inch ovenproof baking dish. Heat the butter on the stove or in the oven until it's melted. In a medium bowl, mix the flour and sugar. Stir in the milk and the reserved syrup. Pour the batter over the melted butter in the baking dish. Arrange the peaches over the batter. Bake for 1 hour. The cobbler is done when the batter rises around the peaches and the crust is thick and golden brown. Serve warm with fresh whipped cream

#### *Homemade Whipped Cream:*

Yield: 4 cups

Chill a large metal mixing bowl and the wire beater attachment in the freezer for about 20 minutes. Pour the chilled cream and sugar into the cold mixing bowl and beat until it forms soft peaks, about 5 minutes. The mixture should hold its shape when dropped from a spoon. Don't overbeat or you'll have sweetened butter!





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# FUN WAYS TO KEEP KIDS OCCUPIED OVER SUMMER BREAK

## DAY CAMP:

Day camps provide much of the structure of school without all the homework or time spent indoors. Many parks and recreation departments run summer day camps for kids. Camps can be generalized or specialized. For example, some may offer an array of activities, including sports and nature walks, in a given day, while others may focus on a single activity, like musical lessons or science-based programs. Camps run by local parks and rec departments do not typically last all summer long, which parents should keep in mind when enrolling youngsters.

## READING:

Parents may be surprised by how much their children enjoy a good book. A recent poll from the National Education Association found that 70 percent of middle school students read more than 10 books a year. The National Literacy Trust reports that roughly 45 percent of children between the ages of eight and 11 enjoy reading “very much.” When suggesting to children that they read more this summer, parents can note the many ways that reading for pleasure differs from reading for school. Point out that kids won’t have to submit book reports and emphasize that they can choose their own books. Depending on children’s ages, introduce kids to a series like “Harry Potter,” which is a set of seven fantasy novels that has helped millions of young people across the globe discover and develop a fondness for reading. Weekly visits to the library, where kids can pick from hundreds of books, can get youngsters even more excited about reading.

## PLAY DATES:

Play dates are a great way to make kids happy and take a little off of parents’ daily plates. Arrange routine summer play dates with children’s school friends, neighbors and/or cousins. Parents can alternate hosting responsibilities so they can get work done at home and enjoy a break when it’s not their turn to host.

## FIND SOMETHING FREE:

Perhaps in recognition of the need for affordable, family-friendly fare, many communities now host free events for kids and their parents each week. Weekly movie nights under the stars and concerts in community squares are popular in many communities, but those same towns also may host events specifically for kids during the daytime. Local libraries can be great resources for free events as well. Summer vacation is a relaxing time for youngsters. Parents who don’t want that relaxation to turn into boredom can look to various activities to occupy their children’s time until a new school year begins.

# 5 WAYS TO ENJOY A SUMMER DAY IN MADISON COUNTY

Spring is in full bloom in Madison County, and the weather is not yet too hot to get out and enjoy the great outdoors.

While summer does not officially begin until June 20, the hot and humid weather associated with Mississippi summers usually arrives some weeks before the official beginning of summer.

That means we have a few weeks left to enjoy the balmy spring weather in Madison County.

To help you get the most out of those precious remaining weeks of late spring and early summer we have rounded up five ways to enjoy a summer day in Madison County.



## 1. BICYCLING

With the Natchez Trace running through Madison County and Ridgeland in particular where the Trace winds along the northern banks of the Ross Barnett Reservoir it is no wonder Ridgeland dubs itself the Cycling Capital of Mississippi.

Bicyclists can embark on the Natchez Trace Parkway at a few different entry points throughout the city and can choose to ride along the Trace taking in the sites, including Overlook Park which overlooks the Ross Barnett Reservoir. Or, bicyclists can stop by the Choctaw Agency center to park and embark on either the Trace or a series of paved trails that run along the Trace through Madison County.

If mountain biking is more your style, check out the Ridgeland Trails at 521 Giles, Madison, which offer miles of mountain bike trails

that are well maintained by the Tri-County Mountain Bike Association.

Riders can venture out to any of those locations solo or in groups or they can sign up to participate in many organized rides throughout the year, including Cheers & Gears Ride held during Ridgeland's Art, Wine & Wheels Weekend in April. The Natchez Trace Century Ride with 25, 50, 62 or 100-mile distance options is held in May. The Heatwave Classic Triathlon with 27.5 miles of cycling is in June. In September, Ridgeland celebrates cycling in with an organized ride on the Natchez Trace Parkway for Bike Your Park Day. October brings the two-day Fat Tire Festival. The Ridgeland Cyclocross Series offers events in September, October and November. The Dead Man Gravel Grind with 14, 28, 42 or 56-mile distances is held in January.

## 2. DAY AT THE REZ

The Ross Barnett Reservoir's northern shores run through much of Ridgeland and Madison County offering many beautiful views and fishing spots that are easily accessible from the shore.

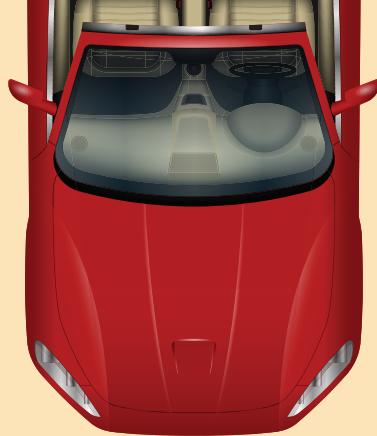
If you are fortunate enough to have a boat, or better yet to be friends with someone who has a boat, getting out on the water can be a great way to enjoy the day, whether for a leisurely boat ride or to fish in deeper water or to water ski or tube behind the boat.

If you do not own a boat or have a friend who would take you on their boat, you can check into the boat rentals available at Main Harbor Store or Friendship II Boats.

Also, plenty of fishing charters are available, led by experienced guides who know how to take you to where the fish are biting.







## 4. COUNTRY CRUISE

Another great way to enjoy a summer day is to put the top down, if you have a convertible, or take the doors off if you have a Jeep or just put the windows down if you have a coupe, and take a nice country cruise through any of the remote roads throughout Madison County, including the Natchez Trace Parkway.

One of our favorites, besides the Trace, is to drive along North Livingston Road to Lake Cavalier Road, then take a left at Joe Coker Road before heading north on Pocahontas Road to Railroad Avenue in Flora where you can make a right turn onto Mississippi 22 and head east to take 463 and make your way back to Madison.

Pick your own route but put on your favorite tunes and enjoy the ride.

## 5. DAY AT THE MUSEUMS

If you want to please the children, make a day of visiting many of the museums located in the Jackson Metropolitan area.

Start with a visit to the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum at 1150 Lakeland Dr, Jackson. There the children can enjoy the day in a mock city that features all the highlights of farm living, including a country store, blacksmithing and cotton ginning. Check out the website at [www.msagmuseum.org](http://www.msagmuseum.org) for special events, schedules and pricing.

Next go to the Mississippi Children's Museum located nearby the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum at 2145 Museum Boulevard, Jackson, where children can

experience all kinds of educational and fun activities to keep them entertained.

Check out the museum's website at <https://mschildrensmuseum.org> for pricing, scheduling and events.

Also close by is the Mississippi Museum of Natural Science at 2148 Riverside Drive, Jackson, which also offers plenty of educational and fun things to do for people of all ages related to the natural world around us. Check out their website at <http://www.md-wfp.com/museum.aspx> for prices, scheduling and events.



## 3. PICNIC

Speaking of the Natchez Trace Parkway and the Ross Barnett Reservoir, both provide ample opportunities for picnicking.

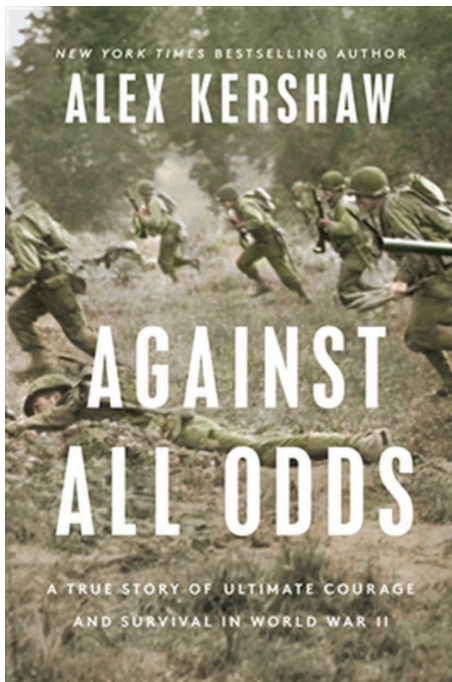
Pack your favorite picnic meals and head out along the Natchez Trace to the Overlook Park or any of the other scenic sites along the Trace to spread out a blanket or set up a picnic on a park picnic table.

With so much rural area in Madison County, picnickers have plenty of other picnic site options available from which to choose,

including on the grounds of the Chapel of the Cross or in a wooded area in a remote part of Madison County overlooking one of Madison County's lakes, including Lake Cavalier, Lake Lorman. Other sites for possible picnics include the Petrified Forest in Flora or the Indian Mound near Pocahontas.

Just be sure to get permission before setting up on private property.

# BOOKS



## AGAINST ALL ODDS

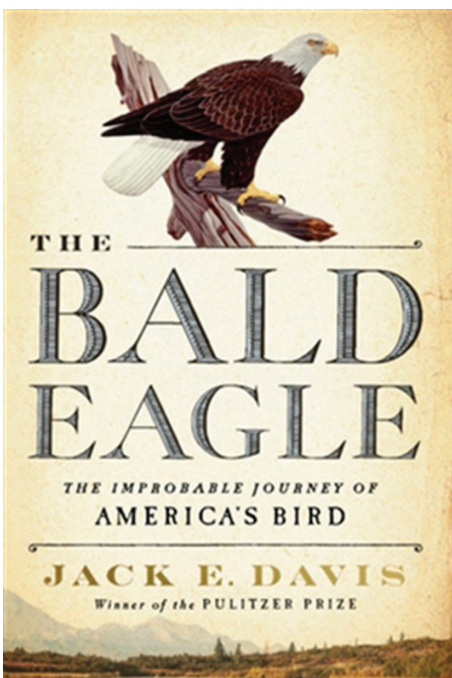
The national bestselling author of *The First Wave* tells the untold story of the four most decorated soldiers of World War II—Medal of Honor recipients all—from North Africa to Hitler’s own mountaintop fortress.

During World War II, as the Allies raced to defeat Hitler, reporters learned of four American soldiers, all in the same regiment, who had earned medal after medal for battlefield heroism. They were the ultimate band of brothers: The dashing Captain Maurice “Footsie” Britt became the very first American to receive every award for valor in a single war. Michael Daly was a West Point dropout who risked his neck over and over to keep his men alive. Captain Keith Ware would one day become the most senior US general to die in Vietnam. In WWII, Ware’s life was saved by the finest soldier he ever commanded, a baby-faced Texan named Audie Murphy, an American legend who would one day become a celebrated Hollywood star. Soon, the newspapermen began to cover the four’s exploits like a football game, pitting one against another as if they were athletes trying to outdo each other. Who among them would gain the ultimate accolade as

WWII’s most decorated soldier?

Tapping into personal interviews and a wealth of primary source material, Alex Kershaw has delivered his most gripping account yet of American courage. Together, these men helped defeat Nazi Germany’s finest troops, marching more than two thousand miles, from the deserts of North Africa to Hitler’s Eagle’s Nest in Bavaria, surviving more than six hundred days of increasingly merciless combat. They fought in every major campaign during the liberation of Europe, earning all of the nation’s awards for valor, including the Medal of Honor. Once the guns fell silent, the four would discover just how heavy the Medal of Honor could weigh, and how great the expectations associated with it could be. Having survived the most intense combat of WWII against all odds, this extraordinary brotherhood would fight just as hard to find peace.

ALEX KERSHAW is a journalist and a New York Times bestselling author of books on World War II. Born in York, England, he is a graduate of Oxford University and has lived in the United States since 1994.

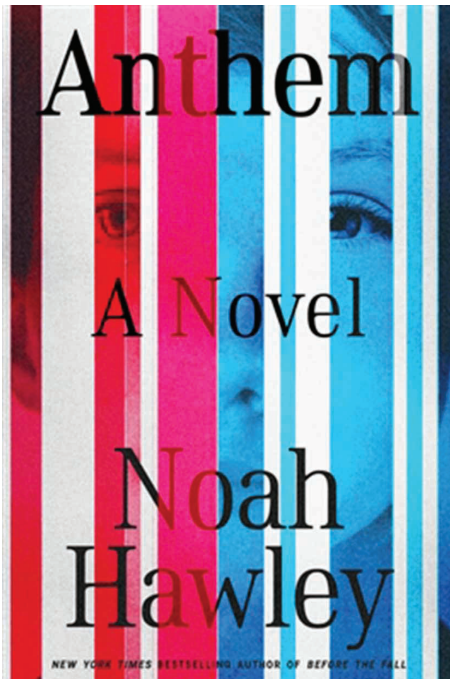


## THE BALD EAGLE

From the Pulitzer Prize-winning author of *The Gulf*, a sweeping cultural and natural history of the bald eagle in America.

The bald eagle is regal but fearless, a bird you’re not inclined to argue with. For centuries, Americans have celebrated it as “majestic” and “noble,” yet savaged the living bird behind their national symbol as a malicious predator of livestock and, falsely, a snatcher of babies. Taking us from before the nation’s founding through inconceivable resurgences of this enduring all-American species, Jack E. Davis contrasts the age when native peoples lived beside it peacefully with that when others, whether through hunting bounties or DDT pesticides, twice pushed *Haliaeetus leucocephalus* to the brink of extinction.

JACK E. DAVIS is the author of the award-winning *The Gulf: The Making of An American Sea* and *An Everglades Providence: Marjory Stoneman Douglas and the American Environmental Century*. A professor of environmental history at the University of Florida, he lives in Florida and New Hampshire.



## ANTHEM

The first big novel of 2022: an epic literary thriller set where America is right now, in which a band of unlikely heroes sets out on a quest to save one innocent life—and might end up saving us all.

Something is happening to teenagers across America, spreading through memes only they can parse.

At the Float Anxiety Abatement Center, in a suburb of Chicago, Simon Oliver is trying to recover from his sister's tragic passing. He breaks out to join a woman named Louise and a man called The Prophet on a quest as urgent as it is enigmatic. Who lies at the end of the road? A man known as The Wizard, whose past encounter with Louise sparked her own collapse. Their quest becomes a rescue mission when they join up with a man whose sister is being held captive by the Wizard, impregnated and imprisoned in a tower.

Noah Hawley's new novel is an adventure that finds unquenchable lights in dark corners. Unforgettably vivid characters and a plot as fast and bright as pop cinema blend in a Vonnegutian story that is as timeless as a Grimm's

fairy tale. It is a leap into the idiosyncratic pulse of the American heart, written with the bravado, literary power, and feverish foresight that have made Hawley one of our most essential writers.

NOAH HAWLEY is one of the most accomplished auteurs and versatile storytellers working in television, film and literature. Over the course of his more than 20-year career, Hawley's work as a novelist, screenwriter, series creator, showrunner and director has garnered acclaim—winning an Emmy®, Golden Globe®, PEN, Critics' Choice, and Peabody Award. As a bestselling author, Hawley has published six novels: *A Conspiracy of Tall Men*, *Other People's Weddings*, *The Punch*, *The Good Father*, *Before the Fall* and the upcoming *Anthem*.



## BOOTH

From the Man Booker finalist and bestselling author of *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* comes an epic and intimate novel about the family behind one of the most infamous figures in American history: John Wilkes Booth.

In 1822, a secret family moves into a secret cabin some thirty miles northeast of Baltimore, to farm, to hide, and to bear ten children over the course of the next sixteen years. Junius Booth—breadwinner, celebrated Shakespearean actor, and master of the house in more ways than one—is at once a mesmerizing talent and a man of terrifying instability. One by one the children arrive, as year by year, the country draws frighteningly closer to the boiling point of secession and civil war.

As the tenor of the world shifts, the Booths emerge from their hidden lives to cement their

place as one of the country's leading theatrical families. But behind the curtains of the many stages they have graced, multiple scandals, family triumphs, and criminal disasters begin to take their toll, and the solemn siblings of John Wilkes Booth are left to reckon with the truth behind the destructively specious promise of an early prophecy.

Booth is a startling portrait of a country in the throes of change and a vivid exploration of the ties that make, and break, a family.

KAREN JOY FOWLER is the New York Times bestselling author of six novels, including *The Jane Austen Book Club* and *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves*, which was the winner of the PEN/Faulkner Award and shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize. She lives in Santa Cruz, California.



## MEMPHIS

A spellbinding debut novel tracing three generations of a Southern Black family and one daughter's discovery that she has the power to change her family's legacy.

In the summer of 1995, ten-year-old Joan, her mother, and her younger sister flee her father's violence, seeking refuge at her mother's ancestral home in Memphis. Half a century ago, Joan's grandfather built this majestic house in the historic Black neighborhood of Douglass—only to be lynched days after becoming the first Black detective in Memphis. This wasn't the first time violence altered the course of Joan's family's trajectory, and she knows it won't be the last. Longing to become an artist, Joan pours her rage and grief into sketching portraits of the women of North Memphis—including their enigmatic neighbor Miss Dawn, who seems to know something about curses.

Unfolding over seventy years through a chorus of voices, *Memphis* weaves back and forth in time to show how the past and future are forever intertwined. It is only when Joan comes to see herself as a continuation of a long matrilineal tradition—and the women in her family as her guides to healing—that she un-

derstands that her life does not have to be defined by vengeance. That the sole weapon she needs is her paintbrush.

Inspired by the author's own family history, *Memphis*—the Black fairy tale she always wanted to read—explores the complexity of what we pass down, not only in our families, but in our country: police brutality and justice, powerlessness and freedom, fate and forgiveness, doubt and faith, sacrifice and love.

TARA M. STRINGFELLOW, poet, former attorney, Northwestern University MFA graduate, and semifinalist for the Fulbright Fellowship, has written for *Collective Unrest*, *Minerva Rising*, *Jet Fuel Review*, *Women Arts Quarterly Journal*, and *Apogee Journal*, among other publications. After having lived in Okinawa, Ghana, Chicago, Cuba, Spain, Italy, and Washington, D.C., she moved back home to Memphis, where she sits on her porch swing every evening with her hound, Huckleberry, listening to records and chatting with neighbors.



## TIME IS A MOTHER

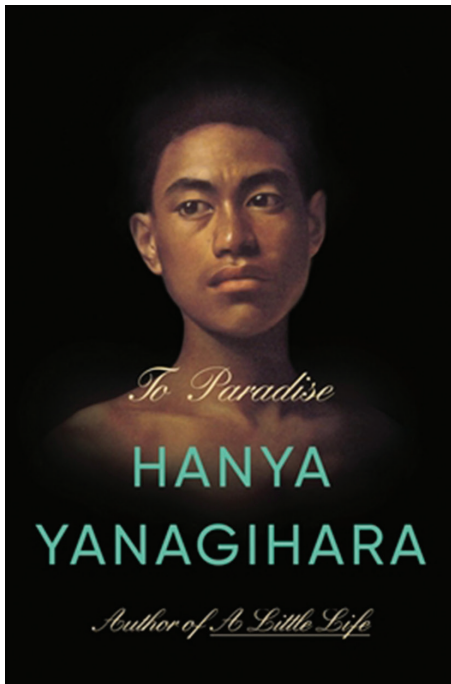
The highly anticipated collection of poems from the award-winning writer Ocean Vuong

In this deeply intimate second poetry collection, Ocean Vuong searches for life among the aftershocks of his mother's death, embodying the paradox of sitting within grief while being determined to survive beyond it. Shifting through memory, and in concert with the themes of his novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*, Vuong contends with personal loss, the meaning of family, and the cost of being the product of an American war in America. At once vivid, brave, and propulsive, Vuong's poems circle fragmented lives to find both restoration as well as the epicenter of the break.

The author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Night Sky With Exit Wounds*, winner of the 2016 Whiting Award, the 2017 T. S. Eliot Prize, and a 2019 MacArthur fellow, Vuong writes directly to our humanity without losing sight of the current moment. These poems represent a more innovative and daring experimentation with language and form, illuminating how the themes we perennially live in and question are truly inexhaustible. Bold and prescient, and a testament to tenderness in the face of violence, *Time Is a*

*Mother* is a return and a forging forth all at once.

OCEAN VUONG is the author of the critically acclaimed poetry collection *Night Sky With Exit Wounds* and the New York Times bestselling novel *On Earth We're Briefly Gorgeous*. A recipient of the 2019 MacArthur "Genius Grant," he is also the winner of the Whiting Award and the T. S. Eliot Prize. His writings have been featured in *The Atlantic*, *Harper's Magazine*, *The Nation*, *The New Republic*, *The New Yorker*, and *The New York Times*. Born in Saigon, Vietnam, he currently lives in Northampton, Massachusetts.



## TO PARADISE

From the author of the classic *A Little Life*—a bold, brilliant novel spanning three centuries and three different versions of the American experiment, about lovers, family, loss and the elusive promise of utopia. In an alternate version of 1893 America, New York is part of the Free States, where people may live and love whomever they please (or so it seems). The fragile young scion of a distinguished family resists betrothal to a worthy suitor, drawn to a charming music teacher of no means.

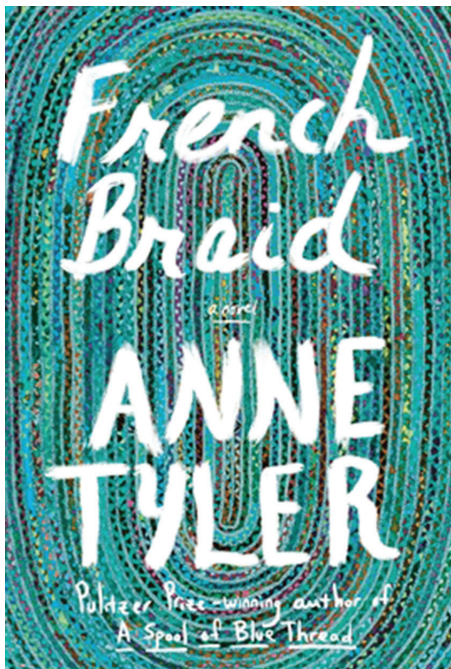
In a 1993 Manhattan besieged by the AIDS epidemic, a young Hawaiian man lives with his much older, wealthier partner, hiding his troubled childhood and the fate of his father. And in 2093, in a world riven by plagues and governed by totalitarian rule, a powerful scientist's damaged granddaughter tries to navigate life without him—and solve the mystery of her husband's disappearances.

These three sections are joined in an enthralling and ingenious symphony, as recurring notes and themes deepen and enrich one another: A townhouse in Washington Square Park in Greenwich Village; illness, and treatments that come at a terrible cost; wealth and squalor; the weak and the strong; race; the definition of family, and of nationhood; the dangerous righteousness of the powerful, and

of revolutionaries; the longing to find a place in an earthly paradise, and the gradual realization that it can't exist. What unites not just the characters, but these Americas, are their reckonings with the qualities that make us human: Fear. Love. Shame. Need. Loneliness.

*To Paradise* is a fin de siècle novel of marvelous literary effect, but above all it is a work of emotional genius. The great power of this remarkable novel is driven by Yanagihara's understanding of the aching desire to protect those we love—partners, lovers, children, friends, family and even our fellow citizens—and the pain that ensues when we cannot.

HANYA YANAGIHARA lives in New York City.



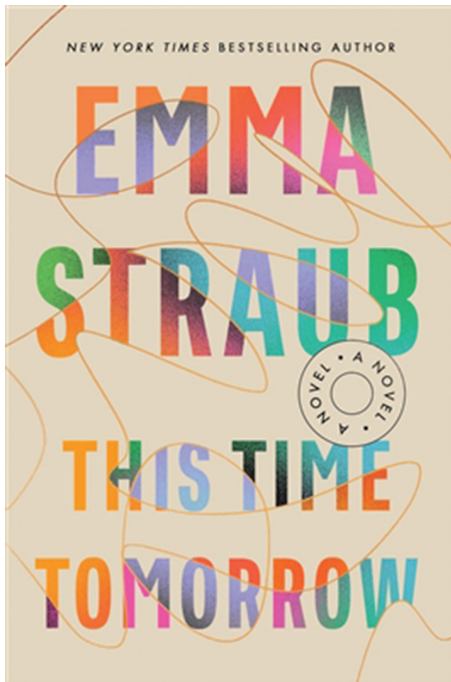
## FRENCH BRAID

From the beloved best-selling, Pulitzer Prize-winning author—a funny, joyful, brilliantly perceptive journey deep into one Baltimore family's foibles, from a boyfriend with a red Chevy in the 1950s up to a longed-for reunion with a grandchild in our pandemic present.

The Garretts take their first and last family vacation in the summer of 1959. They hardly ever leave home, but in some ways they have never been farther apart. Mercy has trouble resisting the siren call of her aspirations to be a painter, which means less time keeping house for her husband, Robin. Their teenage daughters, steady Alice and boy-crazy Lily, could not have less in common. Their youngest, David, is already intent on escaping his family's orbit, for reasons none of them understand. Yet, as these lives advance across decades, the Garretts' influences on one another ripple ineffably but unmistakably through each generation.

Full of heartbreak and hilarity, *French Braid* is classic Anne Tyler: a stirring, uncannily insightful novel of tremendous warmth and humor that illuminates the kindnesses and cruelties of our daily lives, the impossibility of breaking free from those who love us, and how close—yet how unknowable—every family is to itself.

ANNE TYLER was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina. She is the author of more than twenty novels. Her twentieth novel, *A Spool of Blue Thread*, was short-listed for the Man Booker Prize in 2015. Her eleventh novel, *Breathing Lessons*, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1989. She is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters. She lives in Baltimore, Maryland.



## THIS TIME TOMORROW

The New York Times–bestselling author of *The Vacationers* and *All Adults Here* combines her trademark charm and wit with a moving father-daughter story and a playful twist on the idea of time travel

What if you could take a vacation to your past?

On the eve of her fortieth birthday, Alice's life isn't terrible. She likes her job, even if it isn't exactly the one she expected. She's happy with her apartment, her romantic status, and her independence, and she adores her lifelong best friend. But something is missing. Her father, the single parent who raised her, is ailing and out of reach. How did they get here so fast? Did she take too much for granted along the way?

When Alice wakes up the next morning somehow back in 1996, it isn't her sixteen-year-old body that is the biggest shock, or the possibility of romance with her adolescent crush. It's her dad: the vital, charming, forty-nine-year-old version of her father with whom she is reunited. Now armed with a new perspective on her own life and his, is there anything that she should do differently this time around? What would she change, given

the chance?

With her celebrated humor, insight, and heart, Emma Straub cleverly turns all the traditional time travel tropes on their head and delivers a different kind of love story—about the lifelong, reverberating relationship between a parent and child.

EMMA STRAUB is the New York Times–bestselling author of four other novels—*All Adults Here*, *The Vacationers*, *Modern Lovers*, and *Laura Lamont's Life in Pictures*—and the short story collection *Other People We Married*. Her books have been published in twenty countries. She and her husband own *Books Are Magic*, an independent bookstore in Brooklyn, New York.



## YOUNG MUNGO

The brilliant new novel from the Booker Prize-winning author of *Shuggie Bain*

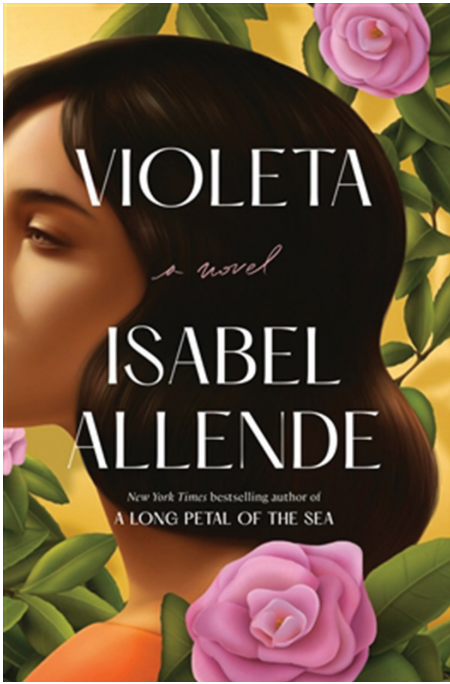
Douglas Stuart's first novel *Shuggie Bain*, winner of the 2020 Booker Prize, is one of the most successful literary debuts of the century so far. Published or forthcoming in forty territories, it has sold more than one million copies worldwide. Now Stuart returns with *Young Mungo*, his extraordinary second novel. Both a page-turner and literary tour de force, it is a vivid portrayal of working-class life and a deeply moving and highly suspenseful story of the dangerous first love of two young men.

Growing up in a housing estate in Glasgow, Mungo and James are born under different stars—Mungo a Protestant and James a Catholic—and they should be sworn enemies if they're to be seen as men at all. Yet against all odds, they become best friends as they find a sanctuary in the pigeon dovecote that James has built for his prize racing birds. As they fall in love, they dream of finding somewhere they belong, while Mungo works hard to hide his true self from all those around him, especially from his big brother Hamish, a local gang leader with a brutal reputation to uphold. And when several months later Mungo's mother

sends him on a fishing trip to a loch in Western Scotland with two strange men whose drunken banter belies murky pasts, he will need to summon all his inner strength and courage to try to get back to a place of safety, a place where he and James might still have a future.

Imbuing the everyday world of its characters with rich lyricism and giving full voice to people rarely acknowledged in the literary world, *Young Mungo* is a gripping and revealing story about the bounds of masculinity, the divisions of sectarianism, the violence faced by many queer people, and the dangers of loving someone too much.

DOUGLAS STUART is a Scottish-American author. His New York Times–bestselling debut novel *Shuggie Bain* won the 2020 Booker Prize and the Sue Kaufman Prize from the American Academy of Arts and Letters. It was the winner of two British Book Awards, including Book of the Year, and was a finalist for the National Book Award, PEN/Hemingway Award, National Book Critics Circle John Leonard Prize, Kirkus Prize, as well as several other literary awards. Stuart's writing has appeared in the *New Yorker* and *Literary Hub*.



## VIOLETA

This sweeping novel from the New York Times bestselling author of *A Long Petal of the Sea* tells the epic story of Violeta del Valle, a woman whose life spans one hundred years and bears witness to the greatest upheavals of the twentieth century.

Violeta comes into the world on a stormy day in 1920, the first girl in a family of five boisterous sons. From the start, her life will be marked by extraordinary events, for the ripples of the Great War are still being felt, even as the Spanish flu arrives on the shores of her South American homeland almost at the moment of her birth.

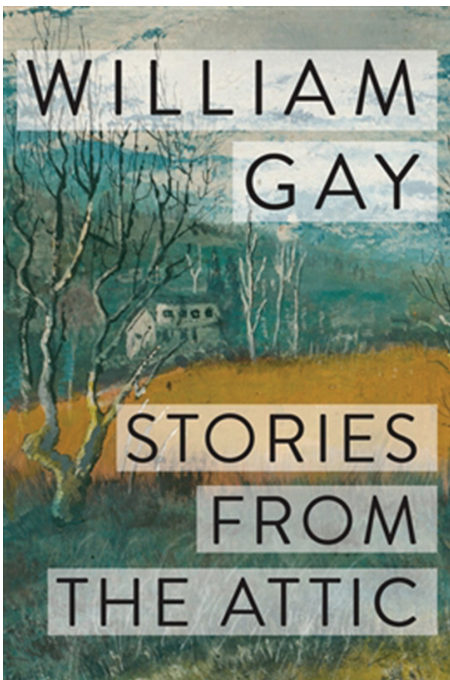
Through her father's prescience, the family will come through that crisis unscathed, only to face a new one as the Great Depression transforms the genteel city life she has known. Her family loses all and is forced to retreat to a wild and beautiful but remote part of the country. There, she will come of age, and her first suitor will come calling...

She tells her story in the form of a letter to someone she loves above all others, recounting devastating heartbreak and passionate affairs, times of both poverty and wealth, terrible loss and immense joy. Her life will be shaped by some of the most important events of history: the fight for women's rights, the rise and fall of tyrants, and ultimately, not one, but two pan-

demics.

Told through the eyes of a woman whose unforgettable passion, determination, and sense of humor will carry her through a lifetime of upheaval, Isabel Allende once more brings us an epic that is both fiercely inspiring and deeply emotional.

ISABEL ALLENDE is the author of a number of bestselling and critically acclaimed books, including *A Long Petal of the Sea*, *The House of the Spirits*, *Of Love and Shadows*, *Eva Luna*, *The Stories of Eva Luna*, and *Paula*. Her books have been translated into more than forty-two languages and have sold more than seventy-four million copies worldwide. She lives in California.



## STORIES FROM THE ATTIC

From a celebrated master of the Southern Gothic comes a last collection of hard-hitting short fiction, his final posthumous work

Beloved for his novels *Twilight*, *The Long Home*, and *The Lost Country* and his groundbreaking collection *I Hate to See That Evening Sun Go Down*, William Gay returns with one final posthumous collection of short stories, adapted from the archive found after his death in February 2012. In addition to previously unpublished short stories, *Stories from the Attic* includes fragments from two of the unpublished novels that were works in progress at the time of his death.

Marked by his signature skill and bare-knuckled insight, this collection is a must-read for William Gay devotees and fans of Southern short fiction.

WILLIAM GAY began writing at fifteen and wrote his first novel at twenty-five, but didn't begin publishing until well into his fifties. He worked as a TV salesman, in local factories, did construction, hung sheetrock, and painted houses to support himself. He preferred to sit in a kitchen chair at the edge of the woods with a spiral-bound notebook on his knee, writing in his peculiar scrawling longhand. His works include *The Long Home*, *Provinces of Night*, *I Hate to See That Evening Sun Go Down*, Wittgenstein's *Lolita*, and *Twilight*. His work has been adapted for the screen twice, *That Evening Sun* (2009) and *Bloodworth* (2010). Most recently, his debut novel has been optioned for film. He died in 2012.

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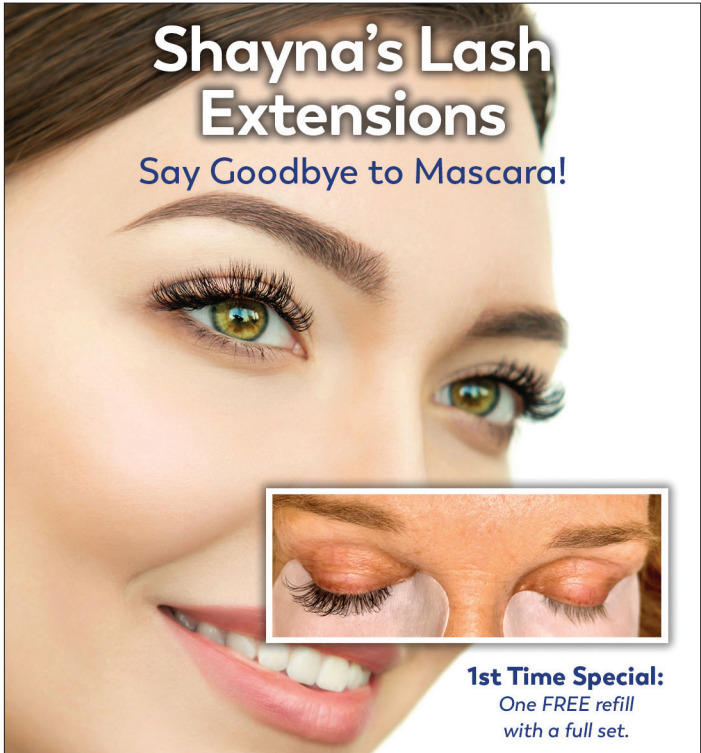


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