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FLORADORA

by Duncan Dent

It is hard to discover a new cocktail. My friend Kennedy Flora and his family and friends found this out about a year-and-a-half ago one weekend in Oxford. I am not sure if they were celebrating a win or drowning out a loss but the mood was certainly Ole Miss sports-related and they had a well-stocked bar cart at their disposal.

Eventually, someone tipped back a high ball made with gin, Chambord, and lime juice and topped with ginger beer or soda. Eureka! Was a new cocktail born?

It was not, but a quick Google search revealed a serendipitous truth: The Floras had discovered the Floradora.

The Floradora is a cocktail made with gin, lime juice, a raspberry-flavored element and is a twist on either a Tom Collins if you top it off with soda or a gin mule if you top it off with ginger beer.

Kennedy recently made a few rounds at a Super Bowl party he hosted using Spanish gin, ginger beer, Chambord raspberry liqueur and lime juice. It was, once again, a hit.

The drink is fizzy, refreshing and not too sweet and the gin — a Spanish brand called Gin Mare in my friend's case — brings a bouquet of Mediterranean herbal flavors and olives.

We recommend the Chambord but any raspberry-flavored ingredient can be a valid twist on the cocktail. Many recipes simply ask for raspberry syrup and one even asked for “framboise,” a Belgian Lambic beer fermented with raspberries.

It dates back to the early 1900s and is named after an Edwardian musical that debuted in London in 1899 and had a successful run on Broadway as well.

The show was known for its chorus line of “Florodora Girls” and would be a popular production through the 1950s.

There is no literature on how the “O” in the middle became an “A,” likely it was a mistake of dictation due to lax pronunciation. That is my theory at least.

Kennedy's recipe is provided.





MAKE YOUR OWN

INGREDIENTS

2 ounces of Gin Mare or the preferred gin of your choice
1 ounce Chambord
half ounce of lime juice
ginger beer
lime or raspberries for garnish

Pour the gin, liqueur and lime juice in a Collins glass with ice and stir. Top it off with the ginger beer. Give the drink another stir to incorporate all the elements. Garnish with lime and raspberries

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PATRIOT TO GOLDEN EAGLE

MRA QUARTERBACK JOHN WHITE
CHASING HIS GRIDIRON DREAM

By Mark H. Stowers

Moving from Winona Christian to Madison Ridgeland Academy in the ninth grade, John White's continued dream to be a quarterback has risen to the next level – Division I competition at the University of Southern Mississippi. Now in his first semester in Hattiesburg the record-setting senior MRA quarterback is learning a new campus, making new friends and tackling a new playbook.

"It was a big jump going from a smaller school to MRA but it was what I needed to do to prepare me for college," White said.

While at Winona Christian, White had success.

"My eighth grade year we were one game from a state championship and my freshman year, we lost in the semi-final."

His mission and quest for a state championship would come true his sophomore year as starting quarterback for the Patriots. His junior and senior seasons ended in playoff action with a final and semi-final games. White has been under center since his Pee Wee days, the only time he also got to play defense as well.

"I got to play defensive end and got to go after the other quarterback," he recalled. "It was fun but I slowly realized all I wanted to do was play quarterback."

Playing under MRA Coach Herbert Davis, White knows he wouldn't be a record setting and now DI quarterback without his guidance.

"He gave me the keys to run the team my sophomore year and we grew a great relationship and I thank him for everything he did for me over my career," he said.

White left the high school gridiron with some pretty impressive stats:

- Owns the Mississippi high school all-time passing yards record with 15,259 career passing yards.
- 177 total touchdowns and 70.2 completion percentage
- Ranks Number 2 in Mississippi in all-time passing touchdowns.
- Threw for 3,557 yards and 42 touchdowns as a senior.
- Voted MAIS 6A Player of the Year following senior campaign.
- Named Mississippi Scoreboard first-team All-Metro at quarterback.
- Tallied 3,175 yards with 28 touchdown passes as a junior.
- Had 3,935 yards with 39 touchdowns as a sophomore.
- Career record of 31-11 at MRA.

"When it happened (passing record), I didn't think about it because we had lost the game and that was my last game," White said. "It took a few weeks but now looking back on it, it's a tremendous record to accomplish. I was blessed to be able to stay healthy long enough and play under great coaches and have a great offensive line and skill guys and receivers around me that helped me. It was a great record to accomplish and I was blessed to be able to do that."

Looking back on his high school career, White didn't have a favorite play but enjoyed the playbook for the Patriots that is designed with several options for the quarterback to decide where the ball will go on each snap.

"We ran a little bit of both – Air Raid and RPO (run-pass option.) This past year we had a great o-line and great running back. We were balanced but I still threw it around as much as any high school quarterback would want to. The deep throw is definitely fun and that's what everybody likes to see in the stands and on the sidelines. But you have to take what the defense gives you," White said.

With so many touchdowns and passing yardage on his resume, he had to reach back to the fourth grade when his dad was his coach for an embarrassing moment.

"We got into a little argument and I got a little bigger than I thought I was and he chewed me out in front of my friends," he said. "That was real embarrassing for me."

On the flip side, the most enjoyable high school season was his last. Even with a state championship and runner up his sophomore and junior years, he looks at his senior season as his favorite year.

"Just being so close with all the coaches and we played some really tough teams in rally tough games. We lost four games by a total of 12 points – by six, by two, three and one. My senior year will be the greatest that I will remember," he said.

The record setting QB noted that between his sophomore and junior seasons, he really clicked into his position – thanks to his head coach.

"Coach Davis and I sat down and talked through what I needed to do to get better. The main thing was to relax and play free. Not play tensed up and worry about making a mistake. Be how I practiced that week. That was the biggest jump for me," he said.

Throughout his young career, White has looked up to long-time NFL Green Bay and now New York Jet quarterback Aaron Rogers.

"He's my favorite player to watch and try to mimic. He's one of the great pure throwers

of the football. I like to watch him and watch his games," White said. "I like to watch all the great quarterbacks but I like Aaron Rogers."

This past December, White graduated from high school to start his college career early. A decision made long ago that put him in summer school to get ahead all while working out with the team to get ahead on the field as well.

"My parents advised me and it was the greatest advice they ever gave me – to plan to do that before my sophomore year. I took two summer school classes for three of four summers in a row and that gave me enough credits to graduate early," he said. "I still have great friends at MRA and talk with them all the time. This is something I had planned to do for a long time and I wasn't going to miss out on the opportunity to get down here and get a head start on fall camp with spring training. Yeah, you miss some things the second half of your senior year but I've been committed to this for a long time."

White didn't grow up cheering for the Rebels or Bulldogs. He was always neutral but now his focus is fully on the Golden Eagle black and gold. Settling in at USM in January, he explained the Golden Eagles were first on the recruiting radar.

"Coach (Will) Hall was the first college coach to offer me a scholarship. We just clicked together and we grew a great relationship over the last three years of the recruiting process with me coming down here to games and practices. He's had a great track record everywhere he's been and I want to be a part of it," White said.

He doesn't have a number yet as spring practice hasn't started. The freshman is getting classes taken care of and adapting to the "business and job" type atmosphere college football is.

"Just after three weeks of workout, school and meetings you realize how much of a commitment it is. You wake up early every single morning and you stay up late. Every night studying for school and for football. It's a big transition from high school to college. It's like a job – you have somewhere to be and something to do pretty much all through the day."

With seven quarterbacks competing for playing time at USM, White will have his hands full.

"It's a great group of guys and a great coach in Coach (Jack) Walker. We're going to compete and help each other and it's going to be a lot of fun."

Spoken like a true winner – an MRA Patriot looking to make his way to quarterbacking the Golden Eagles – John White.



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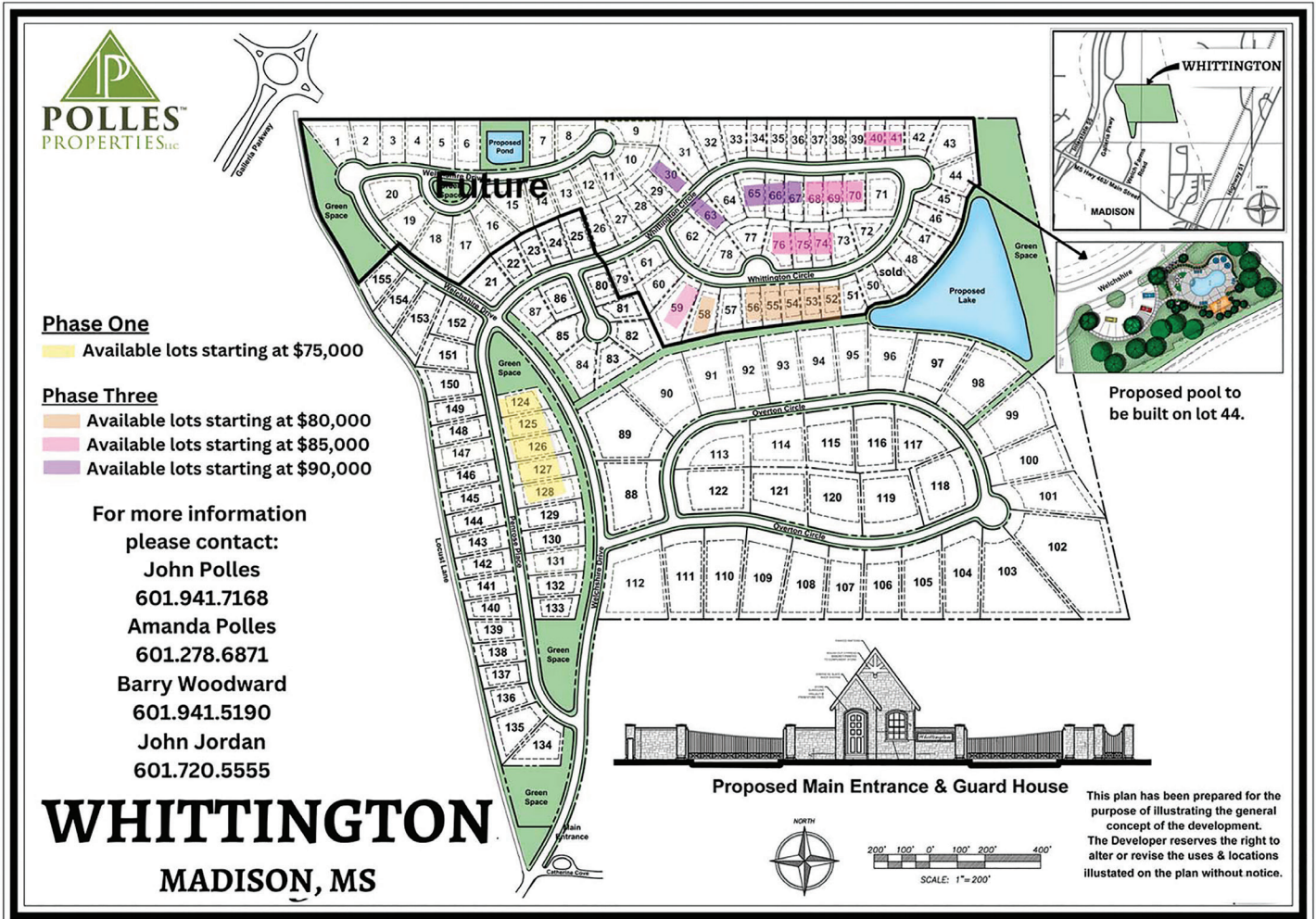
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Adrienne Penny's
WATERCOLORS

By Mark H. Stowers

Adrienne Penny paints houses. The Hazlehurst native has moved a bit with her Presbyterian Minister husband, Robert, and she's taken her paintbrush and watercolor tools with her on each stop. With a lifelong love of art, she's made a lifetime of putting her artistic paintbrush to work and enjoying every stroke.

"I have loved to draw my whole life. I went to Belhaven and I didn't want to write any papers," Penny said. "I majored in art because it just seemed natural. I just did it because I loved it. When I was growing up they didn't have art classes. I didn't take an art class until I got to college. Whatever I did, I did on my own. I can't list any wonderful teachers. I did have a crush on a boy who was a wonderful watercolorist and I wandered around following him around and learned a lot."

Once she graduated, she started teaching art. First in Jackson Public Schools while her husband was in seminary at Reformed Theological Seminary. Then a stint in Columbus.

"I taught for a few years and when I was in Columbus I taught at The W when they needed someone for night classes," Penny said. "I've taught a lot of private stuff but I like to watch Cary Grant movies and sit on my sofa and do my own painting."

The watercolor painter has found a niche with her work – painting houses. And she's realistic about her vocation and career.

"I love to paint houses because I love architecture. And mostly, it's about making money for me. I've always painted pictures of houses because I can sell them by the dozens. It's not very creative but it's very dependable. I do a lot for real estate agents and they give them as gifts when they sell a house."

She explained as a young lady you had to go to Auburn or Mississippi State to become an architect so she threw her passion into painting and settled on watercolors for basic reasons.

"I wasn't really motivated to do that so I took it out on houses because I do love architecture," she said.



Her “art studio” is different than most as she’s had to adapt over the years to painting on a budget as a retired preacher’s wife.

“I paint every day. I do not have a studio. Just a worn out sofa and a good television that I can watch Turner movies,” she said. “You know why I chose watercolor? This is really the reason. It’s because it was cheap. I never had a studio. We were always living in a church house and watercolor supplies are really inexpensive when compared to acrylic and oil where you have to have easels and canvases. It’s a lot more complicated. And I love to draw and watercolor drawing is fun to do. It’s like painting in a coloring book. I did it because of the economy of it.”

She also enjoys the quickness of watercolor.

“It’s very fast. It dries quickly. You can get up and stir the soup and go carpool and do all the other stuff you have to do,” she said. “That’s a lot of the reason why people do watercolor. They think it’s hard but it’s learning what looks like a mistake isn’t re-

ally a mistake. They are predestined to be mistakes (laughing.)”

Painting every day except Sunday, Penny creates one to two paintings a week that are 11-inches by 14-inches. She also paints quite a few animals – dogs and cats. The award winning artist continues each day with her “God given talent but God giving me time to practice it all these years.”



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BEHIND THE LENS

PHOTOS BY JOE DERA

Working for some 40 years in entertainment public relations is very much the charmed life one might imagine. I was lucky to work with the biggest names in music, film, television and sports. Throughout my life, long before toiling in the pr business, I have carried a camera. Beginning with various cheap Kodaks and Polaroids as a kid to my trusted Minolta 125 and eventually my first Nikon. While all these captured memorable images, truth be told my iPhone is far superior with its advance photo technology. Some of the faces featured here will be instantly recognizable, while others are legendary figures behind the scenes. I'm happy to share them for the first time with a brief explanation.



This photo is one of my favorites. It is of actress Marsha Mason when she was married to playwright Neil Simon. She is pictured here supervising the renovation of Broadway's Neil Simon Theater with a team of architects around 1982/83.



One of my favorite clients were the legendary singer/composers Nick Ashford & Valerie Simpson pictured here at their Upper Westside brownstone in Manhattan. Valerie was also a shrewd businesswoman, buying and renovating brownstones in New York at a tremendous profit. Sadly, we lost Nick Ashford to cancer. Their compositions have been recorded by a wide variety of pop, r&b and country artists, including “I’m Every Woman” by Chaka Khan, Ronnie Milsap’s “Never Had It So Good” and their “Let’s Go Get Stoned” gave Ray Charles a #1 hit.



This photograph of First Lady Rosalyn Carter was taken on the South Lawn of the White House during the 25th Anniversary of The Newport Jazz Festival in 1978. The following photos were all taken at the White House as well.



Jazz great singer/guitarist George Benson at the White House celebration of the Newport Jazz Festival.



The legendary John Hammond who discovered Bob Dylan and Bruce Springsteen at the White House.



One of my mentors was writer producer Jerry Wexler. This photo is also from the White House Newport Jazz Festival celebration. It's important to note that Wexler coined the phrase "Rhythm & Blues". Unbeknownst to many, your music playlist probably features a number of Wexler signings, including Ray Charles, the Allman Brothers, Aretha Franklin, Led Zeppelin, Wilson Pickett, Dire Straits, Dusty Springfield and Bob Dylan. Wexler is in the Rock & Roll Hall Of Fame.



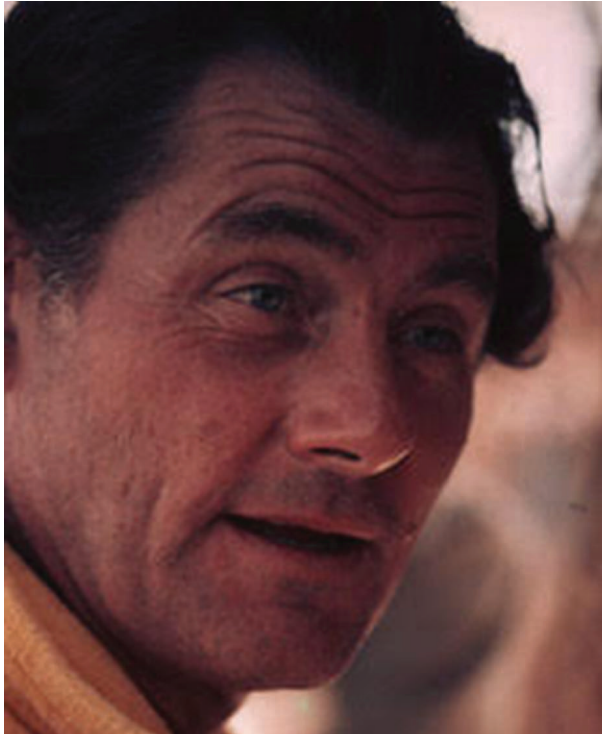
The legendary Lionel Hampton rehearsing at the White House



In 1977 Paul Newman, who was a client, asked if we could take some candid shots when he was racing at Pennsylvania's Pocono Raceway. He was a kind and warm man who lived his life to the fullest.



In 1976 I was asked to go to Bermuda to photograph the cast of the Peter Benchley film adaptation of his book THE DEEP. The film, as well as Nick Nolte, were clients which gave me a slightly freer hand on the man-made set. For the underwater scenes with the actors a large saltwater pool was constructed and stocked with tropical fish. In order to make sure the fish were in the shots the fish wranglers fed them by hand. As a result the fish associated the appearance of the actors with being fed and would swim around the scene being filmed.



I took this shot of the film's star Robert Shaw during a break between takes.



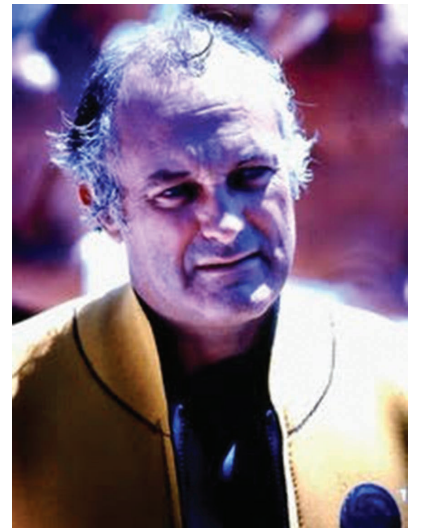
Author Peter Benchley (Jaws, The Deep) also wrote the script for THE DEEP. Pictured here with Nick Nolte discussing an upcoming scene.



Nick Nolte's leading lady in THE DEEP was renowned actress Jacqueline Bisset.



Much of my off time in Bermuda for THE DEEP I spent with one of the film's villains Lou Gossett, Jr. who was living in a hilltop villa with the other villain actors in the film. Gossett would become the first black actor to win a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his performance in "An Officer & A Gentleman."



THE DEEP was directed by British director Peter Yates who also directed Steve McQueen in BULLITT. His leading lady in THE DEEP, Jacqueline Bisset, also appeared in Bullitt.



David Brenner and Steve Martin in deep discussion at Catch A Rising Star, NYC



Jazz guitarist George Benson (left) and Pittsburgh Pirate Dave Parker having lunch at NYC's Pippens on 54th Street



My clients Dave Parker of the Pirates and music client smooth jazz great Michael Franks. Franks had just recorded his song "Baseball" so I arranged for the song to have its world premiere at Shea Stadium during the seventh inning stretch. Pictured here L to R: Willie Stargel, Michael Franks, coach Chuck Tanner and Dave Parker front and center.



In the late 70's & early 80's I worked with the late great Tony Bennett. This portrait was taken in his limo on our way to the CBS Recording studio for some rehearsals.

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Leah Bell

MISSISSIPPI METROPOLITAN BALLET PRESENTS “ALICE IN WONDERLAND”

February 14, 2024—The Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet, under the artistic direction of Jennifer Beasley, will present the fairytale ballet “Alice in Wonderland” at Jackson Academy Performing Arts Center at 2 and 7 pm on March 23 and at 2 pm on March 24. With choreography by award-winning choreographer Charles Maple, the ballet is an action-packed adventure with all the wacky and wonderful characters from the beloved childhood classic: from the White Rabbit to the Queen of Hearts to the Mad Hatter.

The ballet will feature more than 80 dancers from the metro-Jackson area. Patrons will have the opportunity to take tea with the Mad Hatter himself at the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, following the matinee performances.

The Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet (MMB) is a non-profit regional ballet company that has made its home in Madison since 1992. The company has established a tradition of presenting a full-length fairytale ballet each spring, with previous productions including “Cinderella”,

“The Little Mermaid”, “The Wizard of Oz”, “Frozen Heart: The Tale of the Snow Queen”, and “Beauty and the Beast.” The company also presents its annual production of “The Nutcracker” each December at the Jackson Academy Performing Arts Center. MMB is the only ballet company in Mississippi that is a member of Regional Dance America, a national organization that seeks to promote and elevate the art of dance throughout the nation. The dancers of MMB are chosen by audition from the company’s affiliated school,



Wonderland and Through the Looking Glass and was first presented by the Maple Youth Ballet in 2011. The ballet matches opulent costumes, sumptuous scenery, and a stunning array of special effects with comic charm and virtuoso dancing. Audiences will be captivated as Alice follows the White Rabbit down the rabbit hole, takes tea with the eccentric Mad Hatter, teases Tweedledee and Tweedledum, meets the Cheshire Cat, and stands up to the infamous Queen of Hearts, all in an action-packed dream world brought to life through the magic of dance. “This is a ballet that will surprise and delight audiences young and old,” says Crystal Skelton, MMB Artistic Associate. “This ‘Alice’ goes beyond the classic fairy tale in terms of cleverness, humor, and originality. When the final curtain comes down, the audience will likely all be smiling like the Cheshire Cat!”

Featured MMB dancers in the production include Rebecca Trowbridge, a senior at Madison Ridge-land Academy, in the lead role of Alice; Emily Garner, a junior at Madison Central High School, as the Cheshire Cat; Hart Maley, a se-

nior at Jackson Prep, as the Queen of Hearts; Sophia Huang, a junior at St. Andrew’s Episcopal School, as the White Rabbit; Grace Gardner, a junior at Germantown High School as the Cook and the Butterfly; Analyse Binkley, a junior at Northwest Rankin High School, as the Tiger Lily and the March Hare; and Eleanor Ellis, a senior at Northwest Rankin High School, as the Duchess. Daniel Prewitt, a former dancer with Ballet Magnificat, will perform the iconic role of the Mad Hatter. William Johnson, a native of Clinton, will appear as the rollerblading Queen’s Executioner, a character that is one of many wacky, unexpected elements in what is definitely not your average ballet.

Audiences can enhance their experience in Wonderland by making plans to attend the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party, which will follow both of the matinee performances. Embark on a whimsical journey with your family as you step into the Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet’s Wonderland-themed tea! Immerse yourselves in the enchanting world of Alice, the Mad Hatter, the White Rabbit, and many more of the delightful char-

acters, all bedecked in their finest costumes. Guests will capture cherished memories by posing for photos alongside the beloved characters from the ballet. Refreshments will be provided by CW Organics & Tea Room, Chick-Fil-A, and Nothing Bundt Cakes Madison & Flowood.

Tickets can be purchased online at www.msmetroballet.com or by calling 601-853-4508.

Performance tickets range from \$30-35 and tea party tickets are \$25 each (sold separately). Mississippi Metropolitan Ballet is generously sponsored in its 2023-24 season by the Mississippi Arts Commission, Entergy, the Gertrude C. Ford Foundation, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of MS, Cadence Bank, The Larry & Michael Johnson Family Foundation, Harper, Raines, Knight & Co, and Century Club Charities.





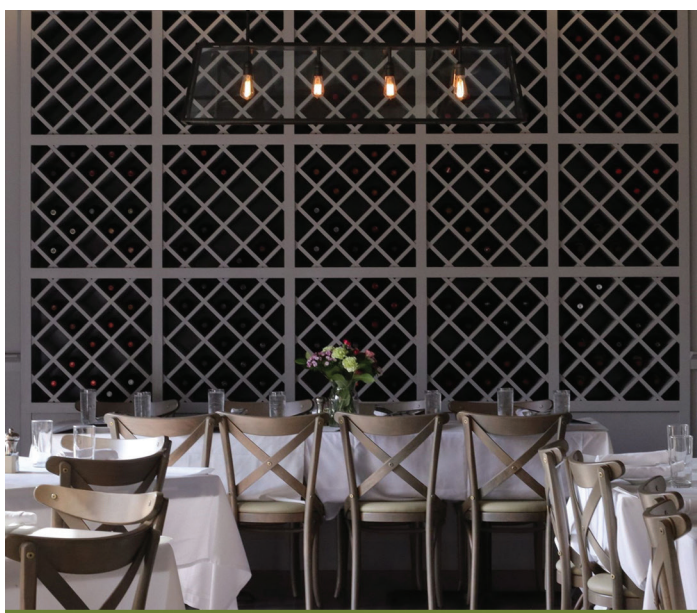
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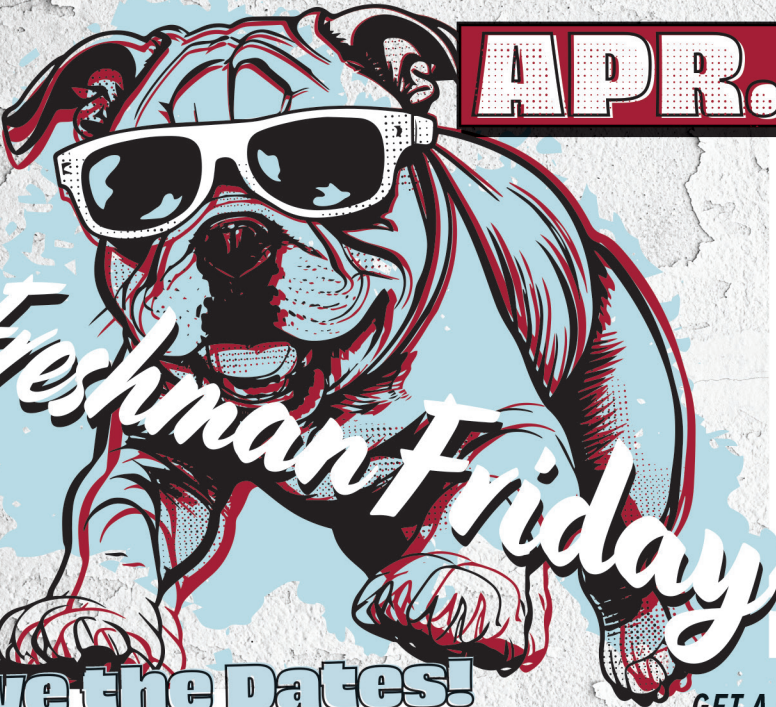
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HEAD'S CONVICTION AFFIRMED ARSON SUSPECTED IN FIRE AT RIDGELAND 'STEAK HOUSE'

High Court Affirms Head's Jail Sentence and Fine

Richard Head, night club operator, was sentenced to 30 days in jail and a \$500 fine for a conviction of carrying a dangerous weapon during a trial in the Circuit Court here Tuesday.

Figures Given Six Months, \$500 Fines

Richard Head, the operator, and six employees were sentenced to six months in jail and \$500 fines for carrying dangerous weapons during a trial in the Circuit Court here Tuesday.

Facing Three Trials Here Tuesday

Three separate cases against Richard Head, operator of the Steak House at Ridgeland, will be heard here Tuesday.

geland Club Operator 14 Citizens, Charging 'Amation Of Character'

Richard Head, night club operator, was charged with "amotion of character" by 14 citizens in a petition filed in the Circuit Court here Tuesday.

For Night Club Operator

Richard Head, night club operator, was charged with "amotion of character" by 14 citizens in a petition filed in the Circuit Court here Tuesday.

Guilty By Circuit Court Operators On Trial Monday

Richard Head, night club operator, was found guilty by the Circuit Court here Monday.

Steak House Cause Arson May Be Cause

The cause of the fire at the Steak House may be arson, according to investigators.

Bids Are Awarded On New School

Bids were awarded for the construction of a new school building.

Blaze

A fire broke out at the Steak House, causing significant damage.

Fire burned and twisted bar stools after fire at the Steak House last Sunday

After the fire at the Steak House, bar stools were found twisted and charred.

Winning Bingo Day For Operation

A bingo game was held to raise funds for a charitable operation.

Three Night Club Operators Charged With Felonies After Ridgeland Battles

Three operators of night clubs in Ridgeland were charged with felonies.

SUNSET Ridgeland Clerk For Arson

A clerk at the Sunset restaurant was charged with arson.

Operator Drops Charges, Accusation Remark On Humorous Remark

An operator dropped charges after a humorous remark.

Steak House Cause Arson May Be Cause

The cause of the fire at the Steak House may be arson.

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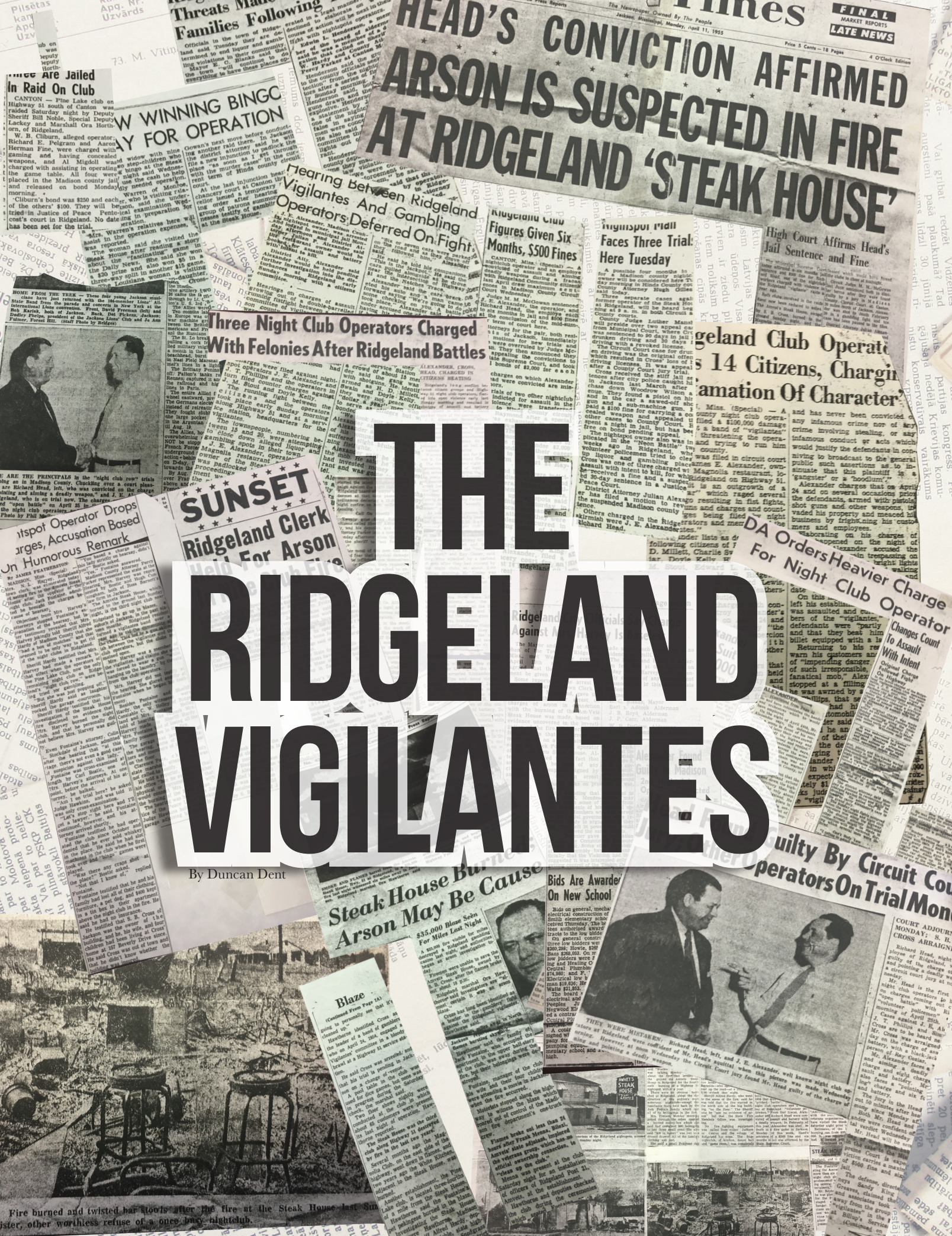
Bar stools were twisted after the fire at the Steak House.

Blaze

A fire broke out at the Steak House.

Fire burned and twisted bar stools after fire at the Steak House last Sunday

Bar stools were twisted after the fire at the Steak House.



Ridgeland was enveloped in a wave of gangster-like criminal activity six decades ago that rivals any of Hollywood's best scripts.

Gambling, booze, beatings and arson were all part of the legends of that era, but, as the story goes, residents took things into their own hands and burned the night clubs down, but no one ever spoke a word.

A small town of only 500 then, Ridgeland was a peaceful little community that became infested with tawdry clubs and dark players.

Citizens stood up to the outside influence and were eventually dubbed the Ridgeland Vigilantes, but they weren't public about their good.

They banded together in a multi-year struggle against a string of four restaurants that openly operated as illegal gambling dens and nightclubs.

The last living member of the 14-man core group, Bill Sturdivant, died in 2017, but not before he wrote down his memories of those years. He signed the pages for the Ridgeland Historical Society and handed them down to his grandson, current Madison County Constable Brad Harbour.

Sturdivant's memories, paired with dozens of old newspaper clippings from the 1950s, paint a pretty picture of an odd time in the city's early history.

The small town was roughly 50 years from its founding by the Chicago-based Highland Colony Company.

In the early 20th century, Ridgeland was home to a hotel, sawmill, and a canning company. The main business section of Ridgeland was along Jackson Street along the Illinois Central Railroad.

Bill Sturdivant liked the small town feel and got a job at the iron foundry, so he bought four acres and moved in during the late 1940s.

Sturdivant, in his memoirs, wrote that the

small town only featured a couple of churches and a handful of businesses.

"There were two churches, Methodist and Baptist, a car repair shop, a restaurant, a couple of gas stations, and a small iron foundry. It was a quiet, typical, small Mississippi town," he recalled.

Sturdivant and his family immediately got involved in one of the churches and he later would serve as an alderman.

Shortly after moving to town, the first of a series of new businesses opened up shop. It was called Amvet's Steak House, which started operation in 1948, and hosted two shows and dinner seatings each evening.

Sturdivant said the two-story building received extensive renovations and was soon operating regular bingo games that would evolve into backroom gambling and nightclubs open well after legal hours of operation. Other citizens alleged that the buildings were violating liquor laws. Mississippi would not repeal prohibition until the 1960s.

Sturdivant said after the Steak House opened, more came to town — the White Kitchen, The Magnolia Club and the Pine Lake Club, all opening in succession prominently along Highway 51. Others would come, but by many accounts these were the big four.

No addresses are listed for these notorious clubs making them difficult to precisely locate, but one site of a crucial event later in this story, Henderson's Garage, is still located on Highway 51 just south of the Natchez Trace Parkway. Local lore suggests that one night club existed around the location of the Goodwill store on Highway 51 that Harbour was always under the impression, based on his grandfather's recollection, was the White Kitchen. Longtime Madison County resident Bettye Stewart has vivid memories of the Pine Lake Club standing where the Rite Aid was in

the current School Street Crossing shopping center from when she was a little girl. Another was said to be just past Jackson Street on the left headed North toward Madison near what was the Oak Place Shopping Center across from Allegrezza Piano.

One thing is for sure, that they were relatively close together and were nearly all accessible or visible off of Highway 51 that predated I-55 leading one newspaper article to refer to the roadway as "Night Club Row."

Newspaper clippings from the time, largely from Canton's Madison County Herald and the now defunct State Times of Jackson, listed James E. Alexander as the owner of the Magnolia and the Steak House and identified a Simpson B. Cross as another owner of the Amvet's Steak House.

The buildings quickly attracted crowds knowns for causing a nuisance and staying open late. Ridgeland was little more than a village, but was gaining a reputation as a "gambling Mecca."

Concerned citizens would hold vigils and picket the clubs that stayed open late. One evening, Sturdivant remembers, someone hit it big in roulette, winning a considerable sum of money. The picketers watched the man walk to his car, quickly followed by "some thugs" who thrashed the man and then took his winnings and walked back inside.

A cohesive group began to form that was set on removing these eyesores and trouble magnets from their community.

Sources vary, but all seem to agree that there were the 14 core members and one news story lists the names R.D. Millet, Charlie Swain, Roy Cozier, Doyle Kelly, future mayor Hite B. Wolcott, J.M. Stout, Edward L. Henderson, N.L. Harvey, H.B. Ridgeway, Sturdivant, Willard Lewis, George Pentecost, A.H. Weathersby and Harold Butler as signers of a



Henderson's Garage

- **1853** — James B. Yellowley founded the community of Yellowley's Crossing (later named Jessamine after his wife).
- **1896** — Edward Treacle and Gordon Nichols, two real estate developers from Chicago, purchased land from Yellowley and established the Highland Colony Company and laid out what is today Old Towne Ridgeland. They created plans then for a town to be named Ridgeland and launched an advertising campaign to entice people from the northern United States to move south. Agriculture was the community's dominant revenue source, with pears and strawberries as the leading crops grown for sale.
- **1899** — The community is incorporated as a village named Ridgeland. It got its name because of its location at the highest point on the Illinois Central Railroad between New Orleans and Memphis.
- **1902** — Nearly all of the city is destroyed in a fire.
- **1910** — A two-room school house is constructed.
- **1928** — Electricity is brought to town still miles from Jackson which barely extended past Belhaven.
- **1933** — Highway 51 is paved along its present day route traveling north of Jackson.
- **1936** — A key location in our story, Henderson's Garage is built. The outpost was long known as the last stop for gas before entry to the Natchez Trace Parkway.
- **1947** — Two things happened, Ridgeland incorporates into a town and the National Park Service begins construction on the Trace.
- **1960** — Ross Barnett Reservoir begins construction.
- **1984** — The modern era began when Northpark Mall opened and brought tremendous growth that would eventually lead to the opening of the Highland Colony Parkway in 1994.

petition heard in a court proceeding against Alexander relating to the trouble to come.

These men, along with other residents, would picket the nightclubs and hold regular meetings at Town Hall. They would petition the Sheriff's Department, the District Attorney's Office and went all the way to Lt. Gov. Carroll Gartin's office. Sturdivant remarked that all government bodies could have built a case if they cared to look, but for whatever reason, no one seemed motivated to act on their pleas for help.

The group started receiving threats from thugs related to the gambling operations. One reported that he wanted them to know that he had a machine gun and was not afraid to use it.

"We didn't pay any attention to the threat," Sturdivant wrote.

Cross, the owner of two of the clubs, would be arrested in March 1954 in Jackson after a chase down Woodrow Wilson. JPD reported at the time that he was pulled over for drunk driving. They found a pistol on his person and a sawed-off shotgun and machine gun in his vehicle.

Cross was fined \$100 for carrying a concealed weapon, which he paid. Cross reportedly lost his drivers license and received a "stiff jail sentence."

All-in-all, Cross spent one night jail and fought the charges against him.

"This should have given us a picture of things to come," Sturdivant wrote.

Tensions continued to mount over the next month and came to a head in a clash known as the "Neon Battle" between vigilantes and Alexander and a group of thugs and nightclub employees that included Richard Head, J.T. Phillips and Jack Fontaine. Some accounts identify Cross as one of the men involved.

It was the evening of April 24, 1954, and the 14 were waiting at Billups' Service Station on Highway 51 for a deputy sheriff to close up the Steak House.

Sturdivant, "Cozy" Cozier and M.B. "Mack" Ridgeway got in Cozier's vehicle to check on the progress of the club closing. Cozier was 70 years old at the time.

They were in Cozy's new vehicle when they were bumped hard from behind by one of two vehicles. Cozy pulled the car over in front of Henderson's Garage, then owned by fellow vigilante E.L. Henderson thinking the cars would pass. Instead they pulled in behind them.

"There were two cars and each had three burly thugs that poured out and started our way. Cozy got out and shut the door behind him," Sturdivant remembered. "This was Cozy's new car and in the dark I could not find the door handle to get out. I was going to at least give him some moral support. Three of them started beating Cozy."

In his account of what the papers would call a "fracas," the three men swung at Cozy with bags that had shot in them, brass knuckles and other items. Henderson's nephew, Jimmy Hen-

derson, who currently owns the building, confirmed there was "an exchange of fisticuffs" during this time, his uncle told him.

But Cozy could hold his own, according to Sturdivant. He dodged and smacked one across the jaw, throwing him into the big garage door. He staggered another assailant with a blow to the head.

All this time Sturdivant looked on in horror as he fumbled with the door handle, while thugs tried to pull Ridgeway out of the car. Sturdivant briefly got the door open but was knocked back into the interior of the car.

Ridgeway bashed an assailant with a spotlight in the backseat, causing the thugs to retreat.

"The light broke as he made contact and one of the thugs evidently was sliced pretty bad because blood covered the side of Cozy's new car. Thankfully, this caused them to retreat and they all left," Sturdivant wrote.

While they were still taking stock of their injuries — Sturdivant was beaten badly and Cozy had a mean gash on his nose that would require stitches — they were still trying to contact local authorities back at Billups. A big black car drove up and several "hooligans exited," including one with an automatic shotgun. He ordered several men against the wall that included Sturdivant, Doyle and Weathersby, Sturdivant's father-in-law.

The moment was tense and while they sat with a shotgun trained to their back, one of the thugs knocked them each on the head with a pistol.

Weathersby had grabbed a tire tool he found on the ground but thought better of it and dropped it. The sound it made when it hit the ground was loud and drew all attention to Weathersby, including the muzzle of the shotgun.

As tensions continued to twist, a constable and sheriff's deputy pulled up and convinced the men, after a minor scuffle, to go home.

The men would then go to the Justice of the Peace to swear a warrant against the threatening thugs. Sturdivant said another scuffle ensued where Stout would take a hit from a pistol, but Billy Noble, the Justice of the Peace (who went on to become Sheriff), pulled his gun and stuck it in the thug's abdomen, telling him that would be all.

Wolcott received physical threats at his home, while his wife was there. Other families claimed they had received threats as well and Alexander brought a countersuit for defamation of character against all 14 of the vigilantes.

One clipping reports Alexander as saying he had warned his employees and customers on the evening of April 24 of "impending danger at the hands of such irresponsible, unlawful and fanatical mob." He also accused the men of being drunk.

While this brazen act of violence concerned some citizens, some said that the owners had a right to make a living like everyone else.

Alexander evidently had big plans for the area. One article claimed he had recently in-

vested \$30,000, roughly \$2.8 million in 2018, and had plans to build a motel on the property of one of the clubs.

While newspaper clippings have little to say on the club's popularity, it would seem to be their very popularity that made them a nuisance. One article tells a story of a middle-aged widow from Louisiana who claimed she won \$25 to go towards much needed medical operation.

But, the "Neon Battle" was the last straw and the authorities intervened.

Alexander's defamation suit did not stick. Alexander and Head were charged with threatening with a deadly weapon and some eight assault charges. Phillips caught three assault charges.

Though the case would be appealed and briefs would be submitted to the state Supreme Court, it was downhill for gangland in Ridgeland. Residents hired the Ross Barnett Law Firm to represent them.

"Any time there was a case going on, all 14 of us showed up. When the first case was tried, we won," Sturdivant said.

District Attorney Julian P. Alexander said during one of the trials, "I refuse to admit that gangsters can defy the law and nothing be done about it. I for one do not intend to tolerate the flagrant disregard of all law that has, for too long, characterized the Ridgeland area."

In his brief to the Supreme Court, Assistant Attorney General Joe T. Patterson said, "This record clearly demonstrates the extent to which those who would violate the law will go in dealing with good citizens when those good citizens dare to interpose objections to flagrant violations in their midst. The miracle of this whole matter is that a number of good

people did not get killed and the actors in this drama are not before this court charged with murder instead of a misdemeanor."

Club owners attempted to stay open but injunctions and raids from local authorities, one of which resulted in the arrest of three men charged with gaming, made business difficult.

In his "History Bits: Volume 2", Madison County's unofficial historian, the now late Jim Lacey, notes in a piece dated June 23, 2005, that the White Kitchen burned down in February 1954.

Sturdivant remembered the night well. "Some months later I was awakened in the night by a loud noise. As I looked out the window, I saw large flames from a building on Hwy 51. I got up and went to see what was on fire. It was the White Kitchen burning as the local fire department volunteers looked on."

The Magnolia Club and a club Lacey identifies as "The Grove" burned that May. Finally, on April 10 of 1955, The Amvet's Steak house, then shuttered, burned down. Club operator Jack Fontaine, who lived in an apartment on the premises, had been at a movie in Jackson with his wife and children.

Arson was suspected in relation to the blaze.

The headline of a Madison County Herald article referenced in Lacey's book dated February 24, 1955 "J.E. Alexander, man of violence, comes to a violent end in a Sunday Morning brawl." He was shot down by a Cleveland man over a dice game after Alexander had threatened eight other players over a dispute in one of the Ridgeland Clubs identified as The Clover Club.

News clippings indicate the Pine Lake Club burned around then as well, though it was after the Steak House burning. Sturdivant wrote

that he remembered hearing that everything had been moved out of the Pine Lake shortly before it mysteriously caught fire.

Then-Ridgeland City Clerk Lily Mae Harvey was brought in on charges of arson in relation to the Steak House case. Alderman, church officials and Harvey herself roundly denied the charges as "silly."

Fontaine, who levied the charges on Harvey, would later withdraw them and admit he brought them forth based only on "hearsay."

No one else would be charged in the mysterious burnings, though some reports say that insurance monies were paid to the owners.

"To the best of my knowledge, none of our people had anything to do with the burnings," Sturdivant wrote.

Lacey noted that vigilantes used the ambiguity to their advantage.

"The vigilantes would only smile and look at you for the next 45 years or so when one would ask about the burning," he wrote.

Jimmy Henderson said that members of the vigilantes would only tell you enough to make you more interested, though he found Sturdivant's writings 'illuminating.'

"They kept it all pretty hush-hush," he said. "But I think as they have gotten older some people have opened up."

The only thing that is for sure is that the club owners did not come back.

"Such were the life and times of Ridgeland in the 1950s," Sturdivant said.

This story was originally featured in the July-August 2018 issue of Madison County Magazine.





GRILLED LEMON HERB CHICKEN WITH ASPARAGUS SALAD

- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 1 lemon, juiced and zested
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried thyme
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 bunch asparagus, trimmed
- Mixed salad greens

DIRECTIONS

In a bowl, mix lemon juice, lemon zest, olive oil, minced garlic, dried thyme, salt, and pepper to create the marinade.

Marinate chicken breasts in the mixture for at least 30 minutes.

Grill the chicken until cooked through, about 6-8 minutes per side.

In the last few minutes of grilling, add asparagus to the grill and cook until tender.

Slice the grilled chicken and serve over a bed of mixed salad greens with grilled asparagus on the side.

PASTA PRIMAVERA

8 oz pasta (spaghetti or your choice)
2 tablespoons olive oil
2 cloves garlic, minced
1 cup cherry tomatoes, halved
1 medium zucchini, sliced
1 cup broccoli florets
1 cup snap peas, trimmed
1/2 cup grated Parmesan cheese
Salt and pepper to taste
Fresh basil for garnish

DIRECTIONS

Cook the pasta according to package instructions, then drain and set aside.

In a large pan, heat olive oil over medium heat. Add minced garlic and sauté until fragrant.

Add cherry tomatoes, zucchini, broccoli, and snap peas. Cook until the vegetables are tender-crisp.

Toss in the cooked pasta and Parmesan cheese. Season with salt and pepper to taste.

Garnish with fresh basil before serving.





STRAWBERRY SPINACH SALAD WITH BALSAMIC VINAIGRETTE

- 6 cups fresh baby spinach
- 1 cup sliced strawberries
- 1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
- 1/4 cup sliced almonds, toasted
- 2 tablespoons balsamic vinegar
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 teaspoon honey
- Salt and pepper to taste

DIRECTIONS

In a large bowl, combine fresh baby spinach, sliced strawberries, feta cheese, and toasted sliced almonds.

In a small bowl, whisk together balsamic vinegar, olive oil, honey, salt, and pepper to create the vinaigrette.

Drizzle the vinaigrette over the salad and toss gently to coat evenly.

Serve immediately as a refreshing side dish or add grilled chicken for a complete meal.

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HAL'S ST. PADDY'S PARADE AND FESTIVAL

March 23

Central Mississippi's annual celebration of Spring has been described as a "green Mardi Gras" and as a "lighthearted homecoming where everyone is king-and-queen-for-a-day." It is also a celebration of the rebirth of Mississippi's capital city, a joyous observance of what is "good and encouraging" about the heart of our state. It is a time to honor the good work of the UMMC's Blair E. Batson Hospital for Children. This rambling, outrageous, hilarious ride, starting and ending at Jackson's favorite gathering place—Hal & Mal's—will from this day forward be known as "Hal's St. Paddy's Parade" in honor of Hal White.



TOWNSHIP JAZZ FESTIVAL

April 6

The Jazz Festival is the brainchild of Raphael Semmes (a mainstay in the metro music scene for decades) and Tripp Douglas (owner of Fusion Coffeehouse). After three years of hosting top-notch live jazz sessions at Fusion Coffeehouse, the crowds were easily overwhelming the small venue. So the logical next step was to take it "outside the box."

It took more than two years to get the event off the ground, but the big break came when Kerioth Corp. (developer of The Township at Colony Park) threw their weight behind it. And the event couldn't have happened without the support of the dozens of local sponsors.

The inaugural festival in 2008 was a huge success, with over 1,000 people enjoying jazz in the sun on May 30, 2008. The crowds continued to grow as subsequent festivals featured headliners like Mose Allison, Jason Marsalis, Delfeayo Marsalis, Ezra Brown, Astral Project, Benny Golson, Eddie Henderson, and Nicholas Payton.

Now in its second decade, the event is known as one of the premier family-friendly spring events in the Jackson metro area.



SANTE SOUTH WINE AND FOOD FESTIVAL

May 4

Since its inception in 2006, the Santé South Wine & Food Festival has grown into the largest wine and culinary extravaganza in the state of Mississippi. A destination event and international showcase, Santé South features many of the world's premier wines and Mississippi's most succulent culinary delights. Santé South affords a rare opportunity for guests to speak directly with boutique winemakers and features more than 120 exceptional wines and fine food samplings from many of Mississippi's top restaurants.

CANTON FLEA MARKET

May 9

With a population of just over 13,000, the town of Canton, Mississippi, is relatively small. But this number significantly increases when the bi-annual Canton Market Arts and Crafts Show is in town. This fantastic event attracts over 1,100 superior artists and craftspeople to showcase their artisan creations to thousands of shoppers, making it one of the largest markets in Mississippi.

The market itself is hosted on the beautiful grounds of Madison County Courthouse and throughout the neighboring areas. The show runs for one day at a time and is held on the second Thursday of May and October.

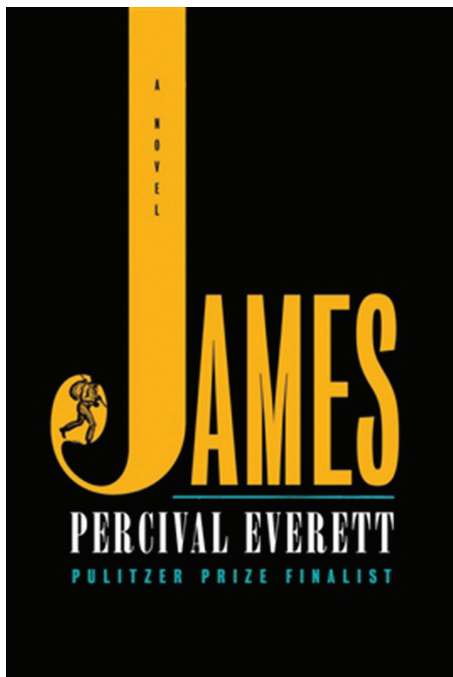


MISSISSIPPI MAKERS FEST

May 11

MDAH's Mississippi Makers Fest is a day-long celebration of the state's rich and diverse music and art. The festival will take place on Saturday, May 11, 2024, on Entergy Plaza at the Two Mississippi Museums in Jackson, MS. This free festival will feature Mississippi artisans, live music, make-and-take activities, food trucks, and more.

BOOKS



JAMES

A brilliant, action-packed reimagining of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, both harrowing and ferociously funny, told from the enslaved Jim's point of view.

From the “literary icon” (Oprah Daily), Pulitzer Prize Finalist, and one of the most decorated writers of our lifetime

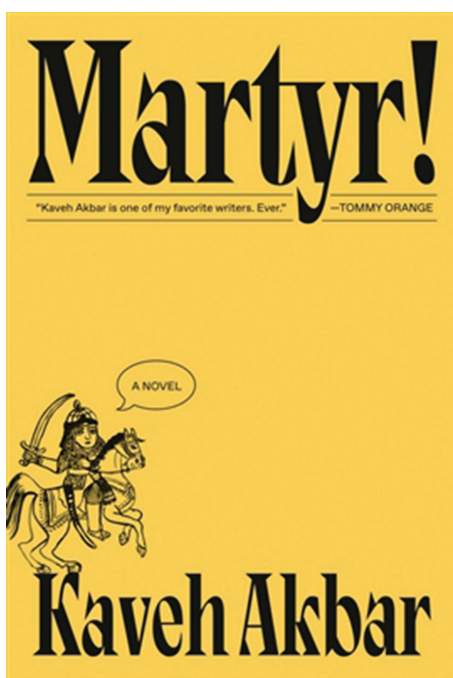
When the enslaved Jim overhears that he is about to be sold to a man in New Orleans, separated from his wife and daughter forever, he decides to hide on nearby Jackson Island until he can formulate a plan. Meanwhile, Huck Finn has faked his own death to escape his violent father, recently returned to town. As all readers of American literature know, thus begins the dangerous and transcendent journey by raft down the Mississippi River toward the elusive and too-often-unreliable promise of the Free States and beyond.

While many narrative set pieces of Adventures of Huckleberry Finn remain in place (floods and storms, stumbling across both unexpected death and unexpected treasure in the myriad stopping points along the river's banks, encountering the scam artists posing as

the Duke and Dauphin...), Jim's agency, intelligence and compassion are shown in a radically new light.

Brimming with the electrifying humor and lacerating observations that have made Everett a “literary icon” (Oprah Daily), and one of the most decorated writers of our lifetime, James is destined to be a major publishing event and a cornerstone of twenty-first century American literature.

PERCIVAL EVERETT's most recent books include Dr. No (finalist for the NBCC Award for Fiction and the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award) The Trees (finalist for the Booker Prize and the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award), Telephone (finalist for the Pulitzer Prize), So Much Blue, Erasure, and I Am Not Sidney Poitier. He has a poetry collection forthcoming with Red Hen Press. He has received the NBCC Ivan Sandrof Lifetime Achievement Award, the Windham Campbell Prize from Yale University, and the PEN Center USA Award for Fiction, and is a Distinguished Professor of English at USC.



MARTYR

A newly sober, orphaned son of Iranian immigrants, guided by the voices of artists, poets, and kings, embarks on a remarkable search for a family secret that leads him to a terminally ill painter living out her final days in the Brooklyn Museum. Electrifying, funny, and wholly original, Martyr! heralds the arrival of an essential new voice in contemporary fiction.

“Kaveh Akbar is one of my favorite writers. Ever.” —Tommy Orange, Pulitzer Prize-nominated author of *There There*

“The best novel you'll ever read about the joy of language, addiction, displacement, martyrdom, belonging, homesickness.” —Lauren Groff, best-selling author of *Matrix* and *Fates and Furies*

Cyrus Shams is a young man grappling with an inheritance of violence and loss: his mother's plane was shot down over the skies of the Persian Gulf in a senseless accident; and his father's life in America was circumscribed by his work killing chickens at a factory farm

in the Midwest. Cyrus is a drunk, an addict, and a poet, whose obsession with martyrs leads him to examine the mysteries of his past—toward an uncle who rode through Iranian battlefields dressed as the angel of death to inspire and comfort the dying, and toward his mother, through a painting discovered in a Brooklyn art gallery that suggests she may not have been who or what she seemed. Kaveh Akbar's *Martyr!* is a paean to how we spend our lives seeking meaning—in faith, art, ourselves, others.

KAVEH AKBAR's poems appear in *The New Yorker*, *The New York Times*, *The Paris Review*, *The Best American Poetry*, and elsewhere. He is the author of two poetry collections: *Pilgrim Bell* and *Calling a Wolf a Wolf*, in addition to a chapbook, *Portrait of the Alcoholic*. He is also the editor of *The Penguin Book of Spiritual Verse: 110 Poets on the Divine*. He lives in Iowa City.



COLD VICTORY

From New York Times bestselling author Karl Marlantes comes a propulsive and sweeping novel in which loyalty, friendship, and love are put to the ultimate test

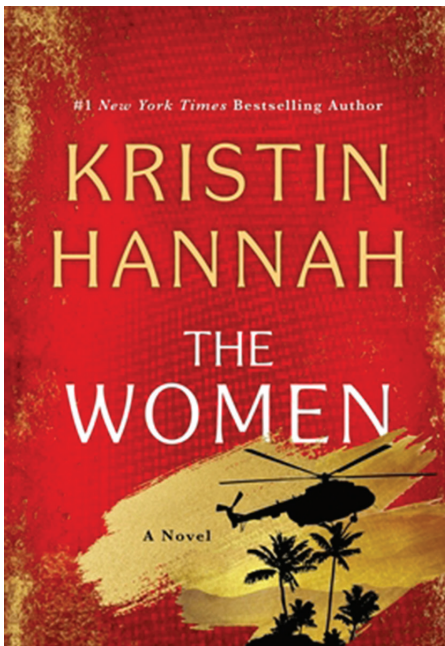
Helsinki, 1947. Finland teeters between the Soviet Union and the West. Everyone is being watched. A wrong look or a wrong word could end in catastrophe. Natalya Bobrova, from Russia, and Louise Koski, from the United States, are young wives of their country's military attachés. When they meet at an embassy party, their husbands, Arnie and Mikhail, both world-class skiers, drunkenly challenge each other to a friendly – but secret – cross-country wilderness race.

Louise is delighted, but Natalya is worried. Stalin and Beria's secret police rule with unforgiving brutality. If news of the race gets out and Mikhail loses, Natalya knows it would mean his death, her imprisonment, and the loss of her two children. Meanwhile, Louise, who is childless, uses the race as an opportunity to raise money for a local orphanage, naive to the danger it will bring to Natalya and her family. Too late to stop Louise's scheme, a horrified Natalya watches as news of the race

spreads across the globe as newspapers and politicians spin it as a symbolic battle: freedom versus communism. Desperate to undo her mistake, Louise must reach Arnie to tell him to throw the race and save Mikhail – but how? The two racers are in a world of their own, unreachable in Finland's arctic wilderness.

This is another masterful novel from the author of the modern classic *Matterhorn*, whose “breakneck writing style is both passionate and haunting” (W. E. B. Griffin). Layered with fast-paced action, historical detail, and a keen eye for the way totalitarianism and loss of truth and privacy threatens love and friendship, *Cold Victory* is a triumph.

KARL MARLANTES graduated from Yale University and was a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University, before serving as a Marine in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Navy Cross, the Bronze Star, two Navy Commendation Medals for valor, two Purple Hearts, and ten air medals. He is the bestselling author of *Matterhorn* and *What It Is Like to Go to War*. He lives in rural Washington.



THE WOMEN

From the celebrated author of *The Nightingale* and *The Four Winds* comes Kristin Hannah's *The Women*—at once an intimate portrait of coming of age in a dangerous time and an epic tale of a nation divided.

Women can be heroes. When twenty-year-old nursing student Frances “Frankie” McGrath hears these words, it is a revelation. Raised in the sun-drenched, idyllic world of Southern California and sheltered by her conservative parents, she has always prided herself on doing the right thing. But in 1965, the world is changing, and she suddenly dares to imagine a different future for herself. When her brother ships out to serve in Vietnam, she joins the Army Nurse Corps and follows his path.

As green and inexperienced as the men sent to Vietnam to fight, Frankie is overwhelmed by the chaos and destruction of war. Each day is a gamble of life and death, hope and betrayal; friendships run deep and can be shattered in an instant. In war, she meets—and becomes one of—the lucky, the brave, the broken, and the lost.

But war is just the beginning for Frankie and her veteran friends. The real battle lies in

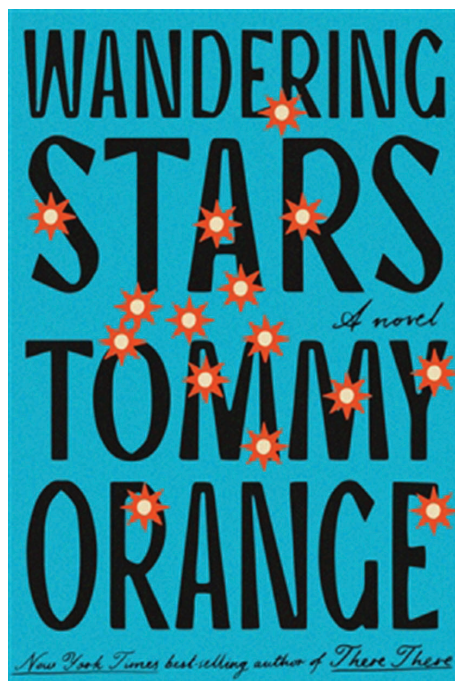
coming home to a changed and divided America, to angry protesters, and to a country that wants to forget Vietnam.

The Women is the story of one woman gone to war, but it shines a light on all women who put themselves in harm's way and whose sacrifice and commitment to their country has too often been forgotten. A novel about deep friendships and bold patriotism, *The Women* is a richly drawn story with a memorable heroine whose idealism and courage under fire will come to define an era.

“Many would say that the nurses who helped fight the Vietnam War were forgotten. Believe me, for those of us who were there, these women were never forgotten—and never will be. Kristin Hannah honors them with this novel.” -

-Karl Marlantes, author of *Matterhorn*

KRISTIN HANNAH is the #1 New York Times bestselling author of more than twenty novels, including *The Nightingale*, *The Great Alone*, and *The Four Winds*. A former lawyer turned writer, she lives with her husband in the Pacific Northwest.



WANDERING STARS

The Pulitzer Prize-finalist and author of the breakout bestseller *There There* (“Pure soaring beauty.” *The New York Times Book Review*) delivers a masterful follow-up to his already classic first novel. Extending his constellation of narratives into the past and future, Tommy Orange traces the legacies of the Sand Creek Massacre of 1864 and the Carlisle Indian Industrial School through three generations of a family in a story that is by turns shattering and wondrous.

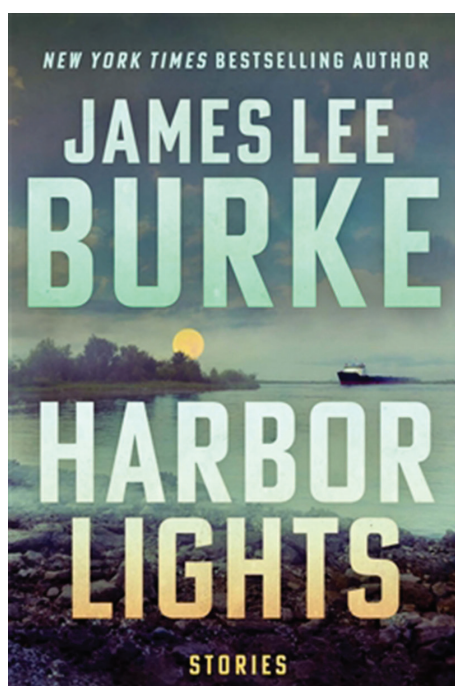
“For the sake of knowing, of understanding, *Wandering Stars* blew my heart into a thousand pieces and put it all back together again. This is a masterwork that will not be forgotten, a masterwork that will forever be part of you.” —Morgan Talty, bestselling author of *Night of the Living Rez*

Colorado, 1864. Star, a young survivor of the Sand Creek Massacre, is brought to the Fort Marion Prison Castle, where he is forced to learn English and practice Christianity by Richard Henry Pratt, an evangelical prison guard who will go on to found the Carlisle Indian Industrial School, an institution dedicated to the eradication of Native history, culture, and identity. A generation later, Star’s son, Charles, is sent to the school, where he is brutalized by the man who was once his father’s jailer. Under Pratt’s harsh treatment, Charles clings to moments he shares with a young fellow student, Opal Viola, as the two envision a future away from the institutional violence that follows their bloodlines.

Oakland, 2018. Opal Viola Victoria Bear Shield is barely holding her family together after the shooting that nearly took the life of her nephew Orvil. From the moment he awakens in his hospital bed, Orvil begins compulsively googling school shootings on YouTube. He also becomes emotionally reliant on the prescription medications meant to ease his physical trauma. His younger brother, Lony, suffering from PTSD, is struggling to make sense of the carnage he witnessed at the shooting by secretly cutting himself and enacting blood rituals that he hopes will connect him to his Cheyenne heritage. Opal is equally adrift, experimenting with Ceremony and peyote, searching for a way to heal her wounded family.

Tommy Orange once again delivers a story that is piercing in its poetry, sorrow, and rage and is a devastating indictment of America’s war on its own people.

TOMMY ORANGE is a graduate of the MFA program at the Institute of American Indian Arts. An enrolled member of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Tribes of Oklahoma, he was born and raised in Oakland, California. His first book, *There There*, was a finalist for the 2019 Pulitzer Prize and received the 2019 American Book Award. He lives in Oakland, California.



HARBOR LIGHTS

A dynamic, gripping collection of short stories from “America’s best novelist” (*Denver Post*), the *New York Times* bestselling James Lee Burke

Harbor Lights is a story collection from one of the most popular and widely acclaimed icons of American fiction, featuring a never-before-published novella. These eight stories move from the marshlands on the Gulf of Mexico to the sweeping plains of Colorado to prisons, saloons, and trailer parks across the South, weaving together love, friendship, violence, survival, and revenge.

A boy and his father watch a German submarine sink an oil tanker as evil forces in the guise of federal agents try to ruin their family. A girl is beaten up outside a bar as her university-professor father navigates new love and threats from a group of neo-Nazis. A pair of undercover union organizers are hired to break colts for a Hollywood actor, whose

“Western hero” façade hides darkness. An oil rig worker witnesses a horrific attack on a local village while on a job in South America and seeks justice through one final act of bravery.

With his nuanced characters, lyrical prose, and ability to write shocking violence in the most evocative settings, James Lee Burke’s singular skills are on display in this superb anthology. *Harbor Lights* unfolds in stories that crackle and reverberate as unexpected heroes emerge.

JAMES LEE BURKE is a *New York Times* bestselling author, two-time winner of the Edgar Award, winner of the CWA Gold Dagger and the Grand Prix de Littérature Policière, and the recipient of the Guggenheim Fellowship for Creative Arts in Fiction. He has authored forty novels and two short story collections. He lives in Missoula, Montana.

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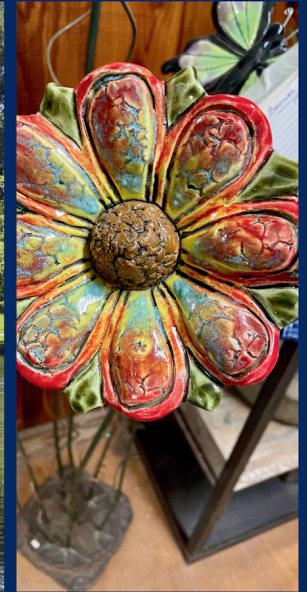
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UPCOMING EVENTS

EASTER IN THE PARK

March 23rd • 9am-11am
Liberty Park

MOVIE UNDER THE STARS

April 19th • 7pm
Madison Square Center for the Arts

Summer Arts Camp

July 8th-20th
Madison Square Center for the Arts

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