

D LIVING

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TELEVISION
TYLER PERRY DRAMA
CONCLUDES IN MAY D2

MOVIES



In this July 27, 1962, file photo, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is arrested by Albany's Chief of Police Laurie Pritchett after praying at City Hall in Albany. King participated in a month-long campaign of local anti-segregation led by the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. AP FILE PHOTO

ATLANTA ORDERS IN

Bistro dynamic addition to scene

The Chastain offers baked goods by day, fine dining by night.

By Ligaya Figueras
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"Everything is interconnected," said Christopher Grossman, executive chef and operating partner at the Chastain, a new daytime cafe and evening bistro that overlooks its namesake Chastain Park in Buckhead.

Grossman was referring to the spaces that seamlessly make up the renovated property (former home to Horseshoe Grill), lending it what Grossman called a "park-like, community feel." There's the main building, with both bar and dining room surrounded by woods and streaming with natural light. An expansive patio features a tented, heated dining section, plus a fire pit and a cluster of socially distanced tables and chairs opposite a long wooden bench. And, there's the vegetable garden, tops on Grossman's list for what he called his "dream restaurant."

But, the interconnectedness at the Chastain is more than the space. It's Grossman's vision of a new American menu that invites mixing, matching and sharing — or sometimes fighting over — elevated comfort food in the form of rabbit gnocchi; or succulent roasted chicken with a warm chanterelle salad and a bonus chicken pot pie, capped with a hot biscuit; or a plate of crispy okra tempura with a boiled peanut remoulade. (The latter dish recently was removed from the menu; fingers crossed it comes back.)

It's also a menu that shows evidence of Grossman's time at premier dining establishments — six years under veteran Gerry Klaskala at Aria, time at Thomas Keller's French Laundry and a five-year run as executive chef at Atlas at the St. Regis Hotel.

Atlanta continued on D2



Rabbit Gnocchi from The Chastain LIGAYA FIGUERAS / LIGAYA.FIGUERAS@AJC.COM

He was being watched

New film explores how FBI tracked Martin Luther King Jr. for years.

By Rodney Ho
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The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., for a period of 13 years, was one of the most scrutinized and filmed figures in American history, from the Montgomery bus boycott in 1955 to his assassination in Memphis in 1968.

But it wasn't just the press watching him. The Federal Bureau of Investigation, which J. Edgar Hoover led, took a keen interest in King as he became the de facto leader of the civil rights movement. Hoover's obsession grew as well.

As documented in a new film, "MLK/FBI," out Jan. 15 in theaters and on video on demand, Hoover expended untold amounts of money and manpower tapping King's phones, using long-term spies to track his whereabouts and creating a monstrous dossier of King's philandering exploits and strategy sessions.

The film, based in part on a book written by David Garrow,



In this March 22, 1956, file photo, the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. is welcomed with a kiss by his wife, Coretta, after leaving court in Montgomery, Alabama. Court records from the arrests of Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King Jr. and others at the dawn of the modern civil rights era are being preserved after being discovered in an Alabama courthouse. Gene Herrick, AP FILE PHOTO

uses newly declassified FBI files to illustrate the depths of the government's surveillance and harassment of King in the 1960s. The documentarians even revealed a letter the FBI wrote King telling him to kill himself, accompa-

nied by incriminating evidence of his interactions with mistresses.

"The FBI surveilled everybody at the time," said Ben Hedin, producer of "MLK/FBI" who previously released a Grammy-nominated documentary in 2016 called

HOW TO WATCH

"MLK/FBI," available at Landmark's Midtown Art Cinema and video on demand.

"Two Trains Runnin'" about the hunt for two blues singers in Mississippi during the height of the civil rights movement. "But what they did to King was more than that. It was active blackmail and character assassination they didn't do with Malcolm X and other civil rights leaders."

When people at the Toronto Film Festival saw the film in the fall, Hedin said many didn't realize how reviled King was in the 1960s, that he was not the man people universally laud today on both sides of the political aisle. Hoover, the film noted, was more popular than King at the time, his unease matching those of many white Americans at the time about King and the changes he wrought.

King, despite his non-violent stance, became a symbol of white people's insecurities at the time. "We also wanted to tell the larger

MLK continued on D4

AT&T makes changes to TV streaming plans



Clark Howard
 Only in The AJC

Editor's note: This article was written by Michael Timmermann and originally appeared on Clark.com.

AT&T TV Now's live TV streaming plans are no longer available to new subscribers.

According to its website, AT&T TV Now has merged with the company's separate service called AT&T TV. Existing AT&T TV Now customers can continue to access the service.

AT&T TV Now launched in 2016 as DirecTV Now. It underwent a series of changes and price hikes over the years.

With AT&T TV Now being shut down to new subscribers, AT&T is now advertising AT&T TV plans with no contract, equipment or hidden fees.

That's a change from when AT&T TV first launched.

The cheapest plan offers 65-plus channels for \$69.99 per month. That's higher than the starting price for YouTube TV, Hulu Live and fuboTV.

AT&T TV's more expensive plans include additional channels, regional sports networks and a year of HBO Max. You can take a closer look at the packages and the channel lineups on AT&T TV's website.

Learn more about the best live TV streaming services at Clark.com.

AJC EXCLUSIVE

Roots of Capitol attack long in the making



Gracie Bonds Staples
 Only in The AJC

It's taken me a while to process the attempted coup that occurred last week at our nation's Capitol.

Not because I didn't see it coming but because so many others apparently didn't. They said they were surprised, that they didn't think the president intended to incite a riot.

Surprised? For four years, President Donald Trump and many of his supporters have been showing us who they are.

"The violence in the Capitol only surprised those of us with the naivete of white priv-



A supporter of President Donald Trump carries a Confederate battle flag inside the Capitol building in Washington, as a mob of his supporters protest the presidential election results, on Jan. 6. Historians said it was unnerving to see a man carry the flag inside the Capitol, something not even Confederate soldiers were able to do during the Civil War. ERIN SCHAFF/THE NEW YORK TIMES

ilege, no matter how much we eschew it," said Susan Peppers-Bates, associate professor of philosophy at Stetson Uni-

versity. "After all, America was founded on white supremacy,

Staples continued on D4

LIVING

Thursday television

“Locked Down” 3:01 a.m. HBO Max — A sparring couple (Anne Hathaway & Chiwetel Ejiofor) is stuck together at home in what is being termed as a “rom-com heist” movie.
“Celebrity Wheel of Fortune” 8 p.m. ABC — Drew Carey, Teri Hatcher, and Chrissy Metz play.
“Law & Order: SVU” 9 p.m. NBC — The SVU

investigates whether a role-play session on a camming website turns violent when one user decides to meet his idol in person.
“Last Man Standing” 9:30 p.m. Fox — Mike reluctantly finds himself acting as Ryan’s mentor when he is offered a big corporate job.
 — RODNEY HO

TV	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
WSB ABC	Celebrity Wheel of Fortune	The Chase	Three new contestants compete.	The Hustler	Clues include billiards and the CIA.	WSB Tonight	(:35) Jimmy Kimmel Live!	(N)
WAGA FOX	Hell's Kitchen	The chefs must create a shrimp dish.	Call Me Kat	"Vacation"	Last Man Standing	Fox 5 News at 10:00	Fox 5 News Edge	Fox 5 News Edge
GPB PBS	Inspector Morse	"The Last Enemy"	A body is found in the canal.	(:45) Inspector Morse	"The Last Enemy"	A body is found in the canal.	Grantchester on Masterpiece	
WXIA NBC	Mr. Mayor	Superstore	"Hair Care Products"	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	"Turn Me on Take Me Private"	Dateline NBC	A woman has a mysterious illness.	11Alive News Up Late
WPXA ION	Chicago P.D.	"Brother's Keeper"	Locals won't talk to police.	Chicago P.D.	"False Positive"	A shocking murder affects Halstead.	Chicago P.D.	"No Regrets"
WPCH	Last Man Standing	The Goldbergs	CBS46 News at 9pm	Inside Edition	People (N)	Friends	Friends	Friends
PBA PBS	Nature	"The Alps: The High Life"	Newborn animals in the Alps.	NOVA	"Secrets in Our DNA"	The value of DNA testing.	When Disaster Strikes	Somalia deals with drought.
WUVG UNI	Vencer el desamor	(N)	Imperio de mentiras	(N)	Dulce ambición	(N)	Noticias 34 Atlanta-Edicion	Noticiero Univision: Edic
WATL MNT	11Alive News Prime-Time at 8	(N)	11Alive News Prime-Time at 9	(N)	11Alive News Prime-Time at 10	(N)	Daytime Jeopardy	Schitt's Creek
WGCL CBS	Young Sheldon	(:31) B Positive	(:01) Mom	(:31) The Unicorn	(:02) Star Trek: Discovery	Burnham heads to the ISS	CBS46 News at 11pm	Late Show-Colbert
WDTA	Andrew	Joni: Tabl	Ministry Now	Morris	Chironna	New Live	Copeland	
WATC	Robison	In Touch	Evangelist	Bros.Word	Covenant	Encounter	Wat There	Kingdo
WHSJ	Inexplicable	(N)	History	State of Faith	History	Inexplicable		
WUPA CW	World's Funniest Animals	(N)	Legacies	Hope tries to save Josie.	CW 69 News	(N)	CW 69 News	(N)
CATV	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
A&E	The First 48 Presents Critical Minutes	(N)	The First 48	"The Code"	(:01) Killer Cases	(N)	(:04) The First 48	"Cruel Intentions"
ABC FAM	"Devil-Prada"	"There's Something About Mary"	*** (1998, Romance-Comedy)	Cameron Diaz, Matt Dillon, Ben Stiller.	The 700 Club			(N)
AIB	Hal Brady	Francais	At The Ta	Mindful	Amer-Drm	At The Ta	Keynotes	D. Bronner
AMC	"Forrest Gump"	*** (1994, Comedy-Drama)	Tom Hanks, Robin Wright.	A slow-witted Southerner experiences 30 years of history.	Fargo			*** (1996) Frances McDormand.
AP	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	Gold Rush	"Man Down"	"Fury"	*** (2014)
BBC	"Fury"	*** (2014, War)	Brad Pitt, Shia LaBeouf, Logan Lerman.	"Training Day"	*** (2001, Crime Drama)	Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke.	(2006) Tyrese Gibson.	
BET	(6:33) "Waist Deep"	(2006) Tyrese Gibson.	"Training Day"	*** (2001, Crime Drama)	Denzel Washington, Ethan Hawke.	(2006) Tyrese Gibson.		
BRAVO	Southern Charm	"Behind the Episode 708"	Southern Charm	"Treehouse of Cards Pt. 1"	Watch What	Southern Charm	"Treehouse of Cards Pt. 1"	Real House.
CNBC	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank	Shark Tank
CNN	Anderson Cooper 360	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
COM	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office	The Office
CSPAN	Public Affairs Events	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today	Politics and Public Policy Today
CSPAN2	Twilight of the Gods	Daughters of Yalta	The Last Million	Jennet Conant	Street Outlaws: Mega Cash Days	"Mo Money, Mo Problems"	Sixty-four of the fastest racers.	
DISC	BattleBots	"Battle of the and Rotator square off.	(N)	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Sydney to the Max	
DISN	Jessie	Jessie	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Bunk'd	Sydney to the Max	
E!	Total Bellas	Total Bellas	(N)	Miz & Mrs	Total Bellas	Total Bellas	Nightly Pop	
ESPN	Women's College Basketball	College Basketball	SMU at Memphis.	(N) (Live)	College Basketball	SMU at Memphis.	(N) (Live)	College Basketball
ESPN2	College Basketball	College Basketball	SMU at Memphis.	(N) (Live)	College Basketball	SMU at Memphis.	(N) (Live)	College Basketball
FNEWS	Tucker Carlson Tonight	Hannity	(N) (Live)	The Ingraham Angle	(N)	Fox News at Night		
FOOD	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Beat Bobby Flay	Bobby and Giada	Beat Bobby Flay
FS1	College Basketball	College Basketball	Michigan State at Iowa.	(N)	College Basketball	Michigan State at Iowa.	(N)	College Basketball
FSSE	College Gymnastics	College Gymnastics	Arizona State at Oklahoma.	(N)	Spotlight	Sports		
FSSO	NHL Hockey	Columbus Blue Jackets at Nashville Predators.	From the Bridgestone Arena in Nashville, Tenn.	(N) (Live)	Predators Live! Post.	Shogun Fights		
FX	"Baywatch"	(2017, Comedy)	Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron.	Elite lifeguards must save the beach from a crime wave.	"Baywatch"	(2017, Comedy)	Dwayne Johnson, Zac Efron.	
HALL	"Love Takes Flight"	(2019) Nikki DeLoach.	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls	Gold Girls
HGTV	Flipping Across America	"Messy Flips"	(N)	Hunters Int'l	(:33) House Hunters	(:03) House Hunters Int'l	Hunters Int'l	Hunters Int'l
HIST	Swamp People: Serpent Invasion	Swamp People: Serpent Invasion	(N)	(:03) Mountain Men	(N)	(:05) Swamp People: Serpent Invasion		
HLN	Vengeance: Killer	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic	Forensic
LIFE	Rizzoli & Isles	Maura is abducted.	Rizzoli & Isles	"Murder-Juana"	(:03) Rizzoli & Isles	"Scared to Death"	(:03) Rizzoli & Isles	"East Meets West"
MSNBC	All In With Chris Hayes	Rachel Maddow Show	Revenge	Revenge	Revenge	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness
MTV	Jersey Shore--Vacation	Revenge	Revenge	Revenge	Revenge	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness	Ridiculousness
NBCSN	Mecum Auto Auctions	"Kissimmee"	Dakr Rally	Figure Skating	Friends	Friends	Friends	Friends
NICK	"Ice Age: The Meltdown"	*** (2006, Children's)	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders
OXGN	Dateline: Secrets	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders	Florida Man Murders
PARMT	(7:00) "Mr. & Mrs. Smith"	*** (2005, Action)	Brad Pitt, Angelina Jolie, Vince Vaughn.	"The Hitman's Bodyguard"	*** (2017, Action)	Ryan Reynolds, Samuel L. Jackson.		
SYFY	"Trans-formers"	"The Goonies"	*** (1985, Children's)	Sean Astin, Josh Brolin.	Young misfits find a 17th-century pirate's treasure map.	The Movie Show	(N)	"Willy Wonka"
TBS	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Go-Big Show	"You Can't Unsee This!"	Big Bang Theory	Big Bang Theory	Conan	Go-Big Show
TCM	"The Old Maid"	*** (1939, Drama)	(:45) "Old Acquaintance"	*** (1943, Drama)	Bette Davis, Miriam Hopkins, Gig Young.	(:45) "Wise Girl!"	***	
TLC	Dr. Pimple Popper	Traci has bumps on her face.	Dr. Pimple Popper	"The Last Unicorn"	Dr. Pimple Popper	"The American Tail"		
TNT	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Spurs	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Nuggets	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Spurs	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Nuggets	NBA Basketball: Rockets at Spurs	NBA Basketball: Warriors at Nuggets		
TOON	Burgers	Burgers	Amer. Dad	Amer. Dad	Rick, Morty	Rick, Morty	Family Guy	Family Guy
TRAV	UFOs: The Lost Evid	UFOs: Uncovers	UFOs: Uncovers	UFOs: Uncovers	UFO Witness	(N)	UFOs: The Lost Evid	
TRUTV	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Jokers	Videos	Jokers	Jokers
TVLAND	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	Everybody Raymond	The King of Queens	The King of Queens
TVONE	For My Man	For My Man	For My Man	For My Man	For My Man	Bernie Mac	Bernie Mac	Bernie Mac
USA	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows	Chrissy Knows
VHI	(7:00) "Creed"	*** (2015)	Michael B. Jordan.	"Romeo Must Die"	*** (2000)	Jet Li, Aaliyah.		
WE	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop	The Real Blac Chyna	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop	Growing Up Hip Hop		
WGN-A	NewsNation	(N) (Live)	NewsNation	(N) (Live)	NewsNation	(N) (Live)	NewsNation	NewsNation
PAY	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
CMAX	"Pearl Harbor"	*** (2001, War)	Ben Affleck, Josh Hartnett, Kate Beckinsale.	Best friends become fighter pilots and romantic rivals in 1941.	(:05) "Blackhat"	*** (2015) Tang Wei		
HBO	"The King of Staten Island"	*** (2020)	Pete Davidson, Maria Tomei.	An aimless slacker lives with his single mother.	(:20) 30 Coins	"The Mirror"	(Subtitled-English)	"Midway"
SHOW	(7:20) "Tommy Boy"	*** (1995)	Chris Farley.	"National Lampoon's Animal House"	*** (1978,	John Belushi, Kevin Bacon.	"Belushi"	(2020) John Landis, Lorne Michaels.
STARZ	In The Long Run	(:26) "Brooklyn's Finest"	*** (2009, Crime Drama)	Richard Gere, Don Cheadle.	(:42) "Premium Rush"	*** (2012, Action)	Joseph Gordon-Levitt.	
TMC	"John Grisham's The Rainmaker"	*** (1997, Drama)	Matt Damon, Claire Danes, Jon Voight.	(:15) "Paranoia"	(2013, Suspense)	Liam Hemsworth, Harrison Ford, Gary Oldman.		

1/14/21

TELEVISION

OWN wrapping 'Haves' drama after 8 seasons

By Rodney Ho
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An eight-year relationship with Oprah Winfrey's OWN network is coming to an end for Tyler Perry with the eighth and final season of the popular drama "The Haves and the Have Nots."

The soap, which focused on the battles between two wealthy Savannah families, will end in May and conclude with 196 episodes over eight years since its debut in 2013 as OWN's first new scripted series.

It became Perry's biggest series on OWN, which included other shows over the years such as "If Loving You

Is Wrong," "Love Thy Neighbor" and "The Paynes." Perry's shows helped bolster Winfrey's network, which later embarked on other scripted shows such as "Queen Sugar" and "Greenleaf."

"The Haves and the Have Nots" regularly drew nearly 3 million viewers per episode and was consistently among one of the top-rated scripted cable series for African-American women.

The final eight episodes, according to a press release, is being described as a "true-to-life Greek tragedy as Jim Cryer (John Schneider), and his rich friends find out what happens when personal flaws go unchecked. Karma has not

been kind to the elite one percenters."

Winfrey, in the same release, thanks Perry, "the incredible cast, the tireless crew and every single viewer who watched with bated breath each week and tweeted along with us these past eight years. I will be watching alongside you all during this final season."

In 2017, Perry signed a new multi-year deal with Viacom, which owns BET, MTV, Nickelodeon and other cable networks as well as the streaming service BET+. He has since created several series for those networks including "Ruthless," "Sistas," "The Oval" and "Young Dylan."

These houseplants can tolerate low light



Walter Reeves



Pothos vine tolerates low light and is a common inhabitant of office desks. WALTER REEVES FOR THE ATLANTA JOURNAL-CONSTITUTION

Q: What are some houseplants that can live in low light? My apartment has few windows. *Isabella Cantor, Decatur*

A: I'll give you six, with the Latin name included, to be sure you get the exact plants you want. My list would include ZZ Plant (*Zamioculcas zamiifolia*), Snake Plant/Mother-in-Law's Tongue (*Sansevieria trifasciata*), Parlor Palm (*Chamaedorea elegans*), Cast Iron Plant (*Aspidistra elatior*), Golden Pothos Vine/Devil's Ivy (*Epipremnum pinnatum*) and Heart-Leaved Philodendron (*Philodendron scandens*). Here are some tips for success: Water only when the soil surface feels dry and do not fertilize until spring. Turn the plant 180 degrees every month to give light to all the leaves. If possible, put the plants outdoors in the shade from May through September. This will help them recharge for the winter months spent indoors.

Q: Someone (who shall remain nameless, though we share a bed) trimmed our cryptomeria tree 3 feet up the trunk. Will branches fill back in where this was trimmed? *Cindy D., email*

A: I'm sad to say, for you and your unnamed friend, the branches will not grow back. It is simply too shady along the trunk for new

buds to sprout. Consider hiding the base of the tree with small evergreens like Indian hawthorne, autumn fern, or loropetalum.

Q: I have been experimenting with cutting small pieces of store-bought mushrooms and throwing the mix on trees and on the ground to grow more. I noticed mushrooms growing from the trunk of an old Rose-of-Sharon. Are they the same as the ones I distributed? *Ana Yim, email*

A: I am not confident in my mushroom identification skills, but you can join the Mushroom Hunters of North Georgia Facebook group and get all sorts of help. The Georgia Mushroom Club, gamushroomclub.org, has regular online meetings. I find both groups to be friendly and enthusiastic. I have some great links to other mushroom identification resources at bit.ly/GAMushroomid.

Q: I need a fast-growing

vine to plant beside my deck to screen us from the house next door. It gets a few hours of direct sun during the day. *David Cohen, Sandy Springs*

A: I can think of three to consider: evergreen clematis (*Clematis armandii*), Carolina jessamine (*Gelsemium sempervirens*) and Confederate jasmine (*Trachelospermum jasminoides*).

If you loosen the soil in a wide area around the planting hole, all three will grow like a house afire in a couple of years.

As an added bonus, they all have attractive fragrant flowers in spring.

Listen to Walter Reeves' segments at 6:35 a.m. on "Green and Growing with Ashley Frasca" Saturday mornings on 95.5 WSB. Visit his website, www.walterreeves.com, follow him on Twitter @walterreeves, on Pinterest, or join his Facebook Page at bit.ly/georgiagardener. His email address is georgiagardener@yahoo.com.



Overlooking Chastain Park, the Chastain has an expansive patio with a tented, heated dining section, a fire pit, and a cluster of socially distanced tables and chairs opposite a long wooden bench. LIGAYA FIGUERAS/LIGAYA.FIGUERAS@AJC.COM

Atlanta

continued from D1

The interconnectedness also includes the integral role that pastry chef Christian Castillo and his team play in the restaurant's operation, as they whip up muffins, croissants and cinnamon rolls for the daytime counter-service cafe, plus breads and creative desserts (that's no ordinary dark chocolate mousse) for the evening crowd. Since the Chastain's debut in November, Grossman has been thrilled with the in-house bread and pastry program. "It's surpassed all my expectations," he said. "The reason is Christian."

The Chastain has served to reunite the two chefs, who worked together at Atlas before Grossman left in the fall of 2019 to dedicate himself full-time to bringing the Chastain to fruition. The Chastain's executive sous chef, Jessica Mullice, is another familiar face. Like Castillo, she also had a stint at Atlas. Most recently, Mullice worked at the Modern, inside the Museum of Modern Art in New York, but returned to Atlanta when the pandemic forced restaurants in the Big Apple to close, and the job market evaporated.

While the nature-enclosed space, refined comfort food and deep talent pool are important reasons for the Chastain's

THE CHASTAIN

Menu: new American bistro
Alcohol: full-service bar for dine-in only
What I ordered: French onion soup, apple and Brussels sprouts salad, rabbit gnocchi, cornmeal tempura okra, crown roast chicken breast with mushroom salad and chicken pot pie, pecan pie, dark chocolate mousse. Every dish brought gratifying bites. The only disappointment is that the okra is now off the menu.
Service options: cafe, walk-up, with online ordering coming soon; dinner, dine-in (reservations strongly encouraged), takeout (in-person orders preferred), no delivery
Outdoor dining: yes
Mask policy: required for all employees, and for customers when not seated
Address, phone: 4320 Powers Ferry Road, Atlanta; 404-257-6416
Hours: counter-service cafe, 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays; dinner, 5-10 p.m. Mondays-Saturdays
Website: thechastainatl.com

early success — as noted by its popularity, especially among the weekend crowd — the high demand for on-premises dining (at 50% reduced capacity, due to COVID-19) has slowed the rollout of the restaurant's takeout program.

Online ordering for the daytime cafe will launch by late January, but the rollout date for online dinner orders is still to be determined. Meanwhile, the restaurant primarily handles carryout orders placed in-person, and juggles to accommodate phone orders.

The Friday night I picked up my order, it was evident that they were work-

ing out the kinks in the takeout process. The food, however, needed no correcting. It was carefully packaged — down to the quenelle of vanilla bean ice cream that was double-wrapped in plastic over ice, waiting to be set atop a slice of dense pecan pie — and the compositions were so beautiful that I transferred the lot to fine china.

I haven't eaten at a restaurant in 11 months. That well-executed takeout meal from the Chastain offered comfort and consolation — and hope that, one day soon, I can take a seat inside, to fully experience this dynamic addition to Atlanta's restaurant scene.