

FLATTMANN FILES

June 2021

“Quality Is No Accident”

A SPECIAL SUMMER

The Little Things I’m Most Excited for This Season

My family and I went to a kid’s birthday party this April, and it was impossible to not notice the palpable excitement. Almost immediately, we could see the joy on each kid’s face. As vaccinations continue, our lives are reverting to life before the pandemic, and something as simple as a birthday party was so thrilling. Who would have thought that the opportunity to run and play with fewer restrictions would have brought so much joy to our children?

My hope is to see that continue this summer.

From virtual school and Zoom events with friends and family to having to watch our daughter’s volleyball games online, there has been so much disconnect in how we engage with others. Everything in our children’s lives has been virtual for the past year, but I hope we will all use this summer as a chance to get outside and experience real life again. For my family, it starts at home.

I like to do a little gardening outside, and every year, I try to get my children involved. We like to grow typical backyard produce, like tomatoes and peppers, but I also do hydroponic gardening. (This is when you grow plants without soil. In my case, I keep my plants in a greenhouse so I can grow food during the winter. Nothing is better than having fresh lettuce in January!)

I like to teach my children where their food comes from. At the risk of sounding like an old man, I find value in getting them away from the TV and their video games just to get their hands a little dirty. They learn the value of hard work and come to appreciate the commitment that goes into each meal.

But it’s not all work! The kids are headed off to a few weeks of camp this summer, and when they are home, we like to spend our evenings playing volleyball or football in the yard. Of course, it’s no contest when it comes to volleyball. My daughter plays in a league, and she can best each one of us — even during the summer off-season!

We also recently bought a smoker, and I’ve been playing around with different meats and flavors. At the time of writing this article, I had smoked a brisket and pulled pork. It was great! I hope to try other meats. I’m sure we’ll have some great barbecue meals thanks to this



new tool, and as I practice, each meal will be better than the last. I just hope I don’t burn dinner or the house in the process.

As lifelong or longtime Louisianans know, our summers can get hot, sticky, and humid, so we also have a plan for those days. I still encourage the kids to spend their days outside. We often lounge in the garage with the fan on, soaking up the heat and the cool air together.

Regardless of how hot and humid it may be, there’s something special about this upcoming summer. We all missed out on so much in the past year, and this is our opportunity to make up for lost time.



We have spent the past 14 months living online — it’s time to get outside and enjoy all of summer’s greatest spoils. Wishing you and your family a fun summer!

-Grady

The Super Benefits of Yoga

June 21 is International Yoga Day, which makes it a great time of year to talk about the unique benefits of yoga — the “superfood” of fitness. As a mixture of exercise and mindfulness, yoga is not only challenging but also has myriad health benefits.

Many people assume yoga is mainly useful for increasing your flexibility. However, it’s also excellent for further developing your strength, mobility, and balance. These can be key benefits for living a healthier lifestyle, whether you’re an athlete or concerned about aging.

Kaitlyn Hochart, a yoga instructor from San Diego, California, writes on Healthline, “During yoga, your body goes through a full range and variety of motion that can counteract aches and pains associated with tension or poor postural habits.” Yoga can help you become more aware of these habits, “[allowing] you to fix these imbalances and improve overall athleticism.”

Many forms of exercise are useful against depression and cardiovascular disease, but in yoga’s case, you don’t have to break a sweat to start benefiting from its stress-relieving properties. “The breathing exercises you practice during yoga can help lower your heart rate and shift your nervous system into a more relaxed state. It also promotes better sleep and increased focus,” Hochart writes.



Multiple studies agree: Yoga can significantly decrease the secretion of cortisol, the primary stress hormone. In one study, 64 women with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) participated in a 10-week program, performing yoga at least once a week. By the end of the 10 weeks, 52% of participants no longer met the criteria for PTSD at all.

As with starting any new hobby or regular exercise, it may help to set clear goals for yourself. By doing yoga regularly, there are several physical improvements you can look forward to, such as:

- Improved range of motion or ease of movement
- A reduction in pain, discomfort, or other symptoms
- An increase in physical strength and endurance
- Less weight fluctuation
- Changes in the way your clothes fit
- Better-quality sleeping habits and increased or stabilized energy levels

One of the best qualities of yoga is that you can be of any age or fitness level. So, pull up a YouTube video, find a soft surface, and give it a try!

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However, more restrictions have come up. In *Miller v. California* (1973), the U.S. Supreme Court found that the First Amendment’s freedom of speech doesn’t apply to obscenity.

How does the court define obscenity? There are three things they’ll take into account:

1. Will the average person (applying contemporary “community standards”) find the work appealing to the overly sexual interests?
2. Does the work depict or describe, in an offensive way, sexual conduct or excretory functions as defined by state law?
3. Does the work, when taken as a whole, lack serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value?

Certain types of hate speech are legal, so long as they don’t incite violence and cannot be categorized as obscenity as described above. But what about more ordinary political opinions? Can those be legally censored?

The First Amendment’s Boundary

Corporate censorship and censorship by private entities are legal because the First Amendment only applies to government censorship. That’s why when Twitter bans an account or Facebook



deletes a post, these actions don’t count as violations of free speech. Could that change?

According to legal experts, the big question now is how to treat large social media platforms. Clay Calvert, professor of law at the Levin College of Law, asks, “Should we treat them differently and regulate them more closely? Have we reached that stage where we need to antitrust litigation, perhaps, and say they have such powerful platforms, they’re like near-monopolies that we should do some trust-busting and break them up?”

Would it be a good idea for the First Amendment to apply to private entities? We’ll leave that to the future debates that are sure to come.

TAKE A BREAK

D L A R E M E S T I K T A U N
N B K D L I J I C I N C O O S
M C Y E E I O K W X I I I X S
E X Q R L C L I E P Q T M N F
M C U B A A U Y W F A S A E F
O N O Y B D M E I U T R U E G
R P U M Q C N R D R E H T O M
I P V B I N D A O T T V O O B
A L M C M C R J E N U X P Z S
L Q H O R G Q V N O A I L J Q
E X O H M Q I H O M I R F O D
B L N J W T M Y M B H H A O M
B Z Y Y E U M I N D M H S P U
C M M P S V H Y O K W V Z C H
A F P O K S C R D R M Y U P F

Bloom
Cinco
Comic
Derby
Emerald
Gemini
Graduation
Lily
Memorial
Mother
Paranormal
Veterans



GRILLED CHICKEN SHAWARMA

Inspired by FeastingAtHome.com

A spice-filled marinade and time do all the work in this recipe that features Middle Eastern flavors.

Ingredients

- 2 tbsp ground coriander
- 2 tsp allspice
- 2 tsp kosher salt
- 8 garlic cloves, minced
- 1/4 tsp cayenne pepper
- 6 tbsp olive oil
- 2 tsp turmeric
- 2 lbs boneless, skinless chicken thighs
- 1 tsp ground ginger
- 1 tsp ground black pepper

Directions

1. To create marinade, whisk all spices with the garlic and olive oil in a medium bowl.
2. Add chicken to the bowl, coat well with marinade, cover, and let sit in the fridge for at least 20 minutes — or up to 48 hours. Strain off excess marinade before cooking.
3. Preheat grill to medium-high heat. Grill thighs for 10–12 minutes on each side, or until a meat thermometer reads 165 F.
4. Serve with rice, vegetables, or pita bread with tzatziki.

ARE GROCERY SUBSCRIPTION BOXES WORTH IT?

June is National Fresh Fruit and Vegetables Month, so let's explore one popular way to get more fresh produce into our lives: subscription-based delivery services like Full Circle and Imperfect Food. Are these services actually worth it? Do they save money and provide what they promise? Here's what the research turned up.

Can they save you time?

The Verdict: Yes, without a doubt. Subscription-based grocery delivery services appeal to consumers because they save time. With somebody else doing your grocery shopping, you don't have to think about when you're making a trip to the grocery store this week. Someone else is doing it for you!

Plus, some services even offer meal kits if you can't decide what to make. There's no argument here — these services definitely save you time.

Can they save you money?

The Verdict: Sometimes, since it depends on your existing shopping habits. If you find yourself making impulsive purchases while strolling down the aisles at the grocery store, then a set (but customizable) weekly list of delivered groceries might be a great way to stick to your budget. Unfortunately, not many grocery subscription-box delivery services offer nonfood items like toilet paper or cleaning products, so you may still have to make a trip to the store every once in a while.

Is the food quality great?

The Verdict: Yes, but it depends on your area. You have a higher chance of getting better grocery items if you buy from an organic grocery box service, like Imperfect Foods or Farm Fresh to You, since these companies work closely with your local farms.

Keep in mind that some services, like Imperfect Foods, are designed to deliver fresh foods that are a little "imperfect" in size, shape, or color to help prevent food waste — but, as a benefit, it's more affordable! However, we've found some services, like Full Circle, will prepackage their boxes from warehouses that may not be local to you, so do a little research before picking one.

All in all, we've been pleasantly surprised to find that these boxes aren't such a bad idea. Consider looking into it if you're tired of the weekly grocery store time crunch!





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Legally Speaking, What Is Censorship? A Brief Dive Into the First Amendment

The First Amendment has been the centerpiece of a contentious debate about what can legally be posted (and deleted) on social media like Twitter and Facebook. But before we can define “censorship,” we need to know what is defined as “free speech.” What exactly does the First Amendment say about free speech? What are the boundaries for what people can and cannot do?



The Freedom to Speak — Without Obscenity or Inciting Violence

The First Amendment covers the freedom of speech, press, and religion. It's arguably one of the most fundamental amendments to American democracy, but its interpretations can vary significantly. This is how the full First Amendment reads:

“Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.”

Why is it that the Ku Klux Klan and Westboro Baptist Church have gotten into legal trouble for expressing their opinions? Their groups often promote acts of violence against another group, which violates the “peaceably” qualifier to the people’s right to assemble.

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