

# My Date for a Movie

I had a very special date the other day. My grandson, Eli and I went to see the movie, “Dr. Doolittle” in Jackson. He is a very good date, even bought me popcorn and a coke. I love this time with my grandchildren, and I continued to use this one on one.

As we watched the movie, my mind wandered back long ago to the movie house we used to have in Kosciusko, the Strand Theatre. I was given fifty cents a week allowance and that



## Peggy’s Take

would get me in the movie on Saturday afternoon and buy me a hot dog and a coke. My mother would carry me and then come back and get me at the end of the movie. As I grew older and of course became interested in boys, this was a meeting place for us to see each other during our elementary school years. I remember meeting one such “crush” on a particular Saturday afternoon and my mother coming in the movie to get me and there I was sitting with my then “boyfriend,” holding hands no less and up she

walked! She had never done this before! I, of course, had to leave immediately and my friend was looked at with those eyes of hers that would make a ghost quiver. As time passed my girlfriends and I continued to use this movie house as our meeting place. I was just more careful about the holding hands part.

As a matter of fact, this is where I was “picked-up” by my husband many years ago. I can’t remember exactly how the meeting was planned, although I am sure it was, on my part anyway, but I had gone earlier on a Saturday night and he came after work and sat down with me and carried me home and my entire going to the movies to meet friends came to an end. From then on, HE carried me to the movies and carried me home.

Then we also had the drive-in movie here in town and this too was a favorite of so many of us during our dating years. Though it’s really strange now that they would do such a thing, at

the time some of my friends would hide out in the trunk of the car and slip into the drive-in without paying. I tell my children and grandchildren about the old drive-in where you drove into a slot, hung the speaker on the car door and sat in your car and watched the movie. It was a wonderful time in my teen age years and such great memories. The sound was dreadful, but we seem to never notice.

It makes me unhappy that my grandchildren will never even be able to see a drive-in movie when it was such a great part of my teen age years.

This is a cake I used to make more often and it is so moist and delicious.

### PLUM BABY FOOD CAKE

2 cups self-rising flour,  
2 cups sugar,  
3 eggs,  
1 cup of oil,  
1 t. cinnamon,  
1 t. ground cloves,  
1 cup raisins,  
1 cup pecans,  
2 jars of plum baby food  
Mix well and pour into a Bundt pan and bake 325\* for one hour. Glaze with ¼ cup of powder sugar and 3 T. melted butter.

*\* Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.*

# Op-Ed: The legislature could help a lot by doing a lot less

The new year brought a new legislative session to Jackson. It also brought new estimates from the Census bureau on Mississippi’s population.

For the fourth time in five years, Mississippi lost population. The state’s population declined by 4,871, the sixth highest total in the country. Mississippi and neighboring Louisiana, which saw a decrease of 10,896 residents, are the only states in the South to lose population over the past year. This is a continuing trend.

A look at a map of domestic migration, which measures where Americans are moving over the past year, shows a picture of the haves and the have-nots when it comes to population growth.

Large swaths of the Northeast and Midwest show a declining population, while the interior west, west coast (save for California), and the Southeast saw population gains. Substantial gains in some states.

So what can we do to join our Southern neighbors?

We may look at Mississippi and say things like, “we don’t have any cool large cit-

ies today that people want to move to.” But honestly, were Salt Lake City or Raleigh or Nashville that cool 30 years ago? They certainly looked and performed much differently than they do today.

People moved to those places because of opportunity, and made them cool. And there are policies the state can adopt that would put Mississippi ahead of the curve when it comes to national policy and position the state to be competitive nationwide.

For starters, Mississippi needs to move away from a desire to overregulate commerce and embolden government bureaucrats. Mississippi has more than 117,000 regulations that cut across every sector of the economy. A successful model to stem this growing tide would be a one-in, two-out policy where for every new regulation that is adopted, two have to be removed. If a regulatory policy is so important, make the government prove it.

The Trump administration adopted a similar executive order in 2017, and the numbers show we are actually seeing decreases greater than two-to-one.

This could be particularly beneficial in healthcare and tech policy. No department regulates more than the Department of Health, but our goal should be a push toward free market healthcare reforms that encourage choice and competition. Certificate of Need reform would be a good place to start.

In tech policy, the state has the opportunity to be one of the first states to essentially open the door for innovation, rather than one where entrepreneurs need to seek permission from the state. If Mississippi wants to get in the technology world, and we are convinced this is essential, a permissionless in-

you don’t believe God exists, then you are betting our time on earth is it. If you’re a believer in God, you are betting you make it into a place that many people call heaven.

If that place exists, it is only entered through an earned entrance or a gifted one. Christianity offers the latter. It’s why Jesus died. One can try to pay for their own sins, or he can choose to accept the truth that Jesus did that for him and claim salvation through Jesus’ death. But it’s every person’s choice. And because we don’t know about the certainty of next season, we would do well to come to some conclusion as to whether Jesus was a liar, lunatic, or Lord.

Contact me about speaking at your next event.  
[gary@outdoortruths.org](mailto:gary@outdoortruths.org)

novation policy in healthcare would be a big step in the right direction.

We need to continue to reform our occupational licensing requirements. This includes providing universal recognition of licensing, following the path paved by Arizona. If you have been licensed in one state, that license should be good in Mississippi. Again, we could lead on an issue that would be particularly beneficial to military families.

Our current licensing regime serves to lower competition and increase costs for consumers, while not providing those consumers with a better product. Occupational licensing is an example of how Mississippi misses the opportunity to grow her economy by acting in defensive ways to protect the slices of our economic pie for the well-connected when the reality is we could create a much bigger economic pie if we encouraged more creative disruption, competition, and risk-taking.

Finally, Mississippi needs to shed its abundant reliance on government and the public sector. Whether for public assistance, grants, contracts, jobs, or specific tax breaks, the citizens and companies in Mississippi are too dependent on state government. And the state is too dependent on the federal government. We have the third highest level of economic dependence on federal grants-in-aid in the nation (43%) and the fourth highest level of our economy driven by the public sector in the country (55%).

Politicians, state agency directors, and government bureaucrats cannot create the economic growth we need. They can, however, work together with our various representatives and create an environment that allows and encourages private economic activities. Ultimately, with such an environment, it will be the entrepreneurs, business owners, productive workers, creative disruptors, capitalists, managers, and consumers who deliver the economic growth we all seek.

There’s no rule that Mississippi has to lose population. Alabama, with whom we share much in common, had a domestic migration growth that ranked 18th in the country last year. We’d celebrate that. Some will look at Mississippi’s woes and say the problem is that government doesn’t do enough. As the success of our neighbors shows, that couldn’t be further from the truth.

*\*Jon Pritchett is the President and CEO of Mississippi Center for Public Policy, the state’s non-partisan, free-market think tank.*

### PUBLIC HEARING SECOND NOTICE

THE CITY OF TCHULA WILL HOLD A SECOND PUBLIC HEARING ON FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2020 AT 4:00 P.M. AT THE TCHULA CITY HALL IN ACCORDANCE WITH REGULATIONS ESTABLISHED BY THE MISSISSIPPI DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY. THE PURPOSE OF THIS MEETING IS TO INFORM THE PUBLIC ON THE STATUS OF THE CITY’S CDBG (1133-16-359-PF-01) PUBLIC FACILITIES PROJECT INVOLVING SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, AS WELL AS EDUCATE AND PROVIDE INFORMATION ABOUT FEDERAL FAIR HOUSING POLICIES AND LAWS. THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND, PARTICULARLY THOSE PERSONS DIRECTLY BENEFITTING FROM THE PROJECT AND THOSE WHO WOULD LIKE TO LEARN MORE ABOUT FAIR HOUSING.

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Any day now, I’ll be going to several locations to take down tree stands and blinds. The season is over in my area. The losses can’t be overcome. The successes can’t be undone. Stamp this season, done. I hunted pretty hard, had a miss, a couldn’t-find, a close call, and one pretty good buck down.

I will lick my wounds, admire my trophy, and wait for another season. It won’t be long until the die-hards will be posting about how many more days until deer season opens again, even though Alabama has another two weeks. Can’t imagine how anything else in my life would get done if the season ran for six months out of the year. Again, I’ll gather my things, make some mental notes about what I need to different next year, and wait until September. Some of those big bucks will still be around. I hope I am.

One of the things we all do is assume our future is sure. We talk about the next season as if it claims the same assurance as yesterday. We

plan, work, and talk without any regard toward the idea that we might have just hunted our last season. After all, no one dies at my age. My health is no issue. I live a normal, uneventful, and undangerous life. Next season is a given. But as I began penning this article, I was startled with the news of the untimely death of the former NBA superstar Kobe Bryant. The news just confirmed he died in a helicopter crash in California. He was 41. Even though he was retired, he played his last season. There’s no doubt he had been making plans for next year. He was a business and family man. His interests demanded he plan far in advance. I can’t imagine he was planning for an early demise. You’re not either.

The truth is, none of us know when we’ve hunted or played our last season. That time is not based on our birth date but on our death date. And only God knows when that event is. What we can know is that one day we will face an end or an eternity. If