

THE WICKER REPORT

SENATOR WICKER'S WEEKLY REPORT from CONGRESS

Wicker Promotes Pro-Life Legislation

Law Must Protect Babies, Moms, and Families

In 2022, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v Wade, returning most abortion decision-making responsibility to the states. But this deeply personal and hotly debated subject has now returned to the nation's highest court. Most recently, the justices have been considering cases involving mifepristone, a chemical abortion pill.

Abortion Drug Endangers Women and Babies

In many states, including Mississippi, it is illegal to sell or provide mifepristone for abortion. Not only does the drug complete an abortion but it puts moms in danger. For example, it causes some women to misidentify side effects. In some cases, the experience of mifepristone can resemble the symptoms of an ectopic pregnancy, which requires urgent medical attention.

For those reasons, mifepristone has always been dispensed only in the presence of a health care provider, who could be there for women in case of negative reactions. In 2023, the Biden administration sacrificed these longstand-

ing safety procedures in its pursuit of an unlimited abortion policy. It did away with the in-person requirement, permanently allowing mifepristone to be shipped directly to homes.

The Biden administration's decision violated more than women's safety standards. It also brought abortions into states that had banned the procedure. I have filed briefs at the Supreme Court, urging them to restore the in-person requirement that provided more safety. At the same time, I am working with the Trump administration as it conducts a review of mifepristone policy.

Taxpayers Shouldn't Fund Abortion

I have also been working to make permanent the principles of the Hyde Amendment, which keeps taxpayer money from funding abortions. Since 1976, Congress has attached this amendment to appropriations bills, giving it a one-year term that must be re-approved annually.

As Americans have vigorously deliberated over abortion for the past 50 years, the Hyde Amendment has been one of the few sources

of stability. Both Democrats and Republicans have agreed that, no matter what state or local laws say about the issue, the public should not have to subsidize the procedure. This Congress, I introduced a bill called the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2025. That legislation would eliminate the need to reapprove the Hyde Amendment each year and instead make it the fixed law of the land.

In the meantime, I am supporting another bill, which would address a narrow application of the same principle. I joined the Title X Abortion Provider Prohibition Act, which would prevent federal family planning grants from supporting organizations that also provide abortion.

Pro-Life Community Promotes Adoption

The pro-life community has long understood that ending abortion is just one component in a broader culture of life. After Roe v Wade was overturned, Mississippi increased services for mothers and families, helping them care for their babies. Adoption is one of the most profound examples of that care. In Congress, I am working to make the adoption process safer and more accessible.

I recently joined a bill, the ADOPT Act, which would protect mothers, children, and adoptive families from those who exploit the adoption system. Dishonest "baby brokers" have been charging exorbitant fees to connect birth mothers with adoptive parents. Often, these brokers lack the credentials that prove they have been vetted.

The ADOPT Act would allow only legitimate providers to facilitate the adoption process, ensuring that no vulnerable mothers or chil-

New law creates grant program that covers some college costs

Mississippi Today by Candice Wilder

Mississippi residents who want to earn an associate degree or professional credential at one of the state's community colleges could get some financial help through a new program.

In April, Gov. Tate Reeves signed into law House Bill 562, which establishes the UPSKILL (Upgrading Priority Skills for Key Indus-

try Learning and Labor) Mississippi Grant program. The program, which would start as a pilot, will provide last-dollar scholarships to eligible adults who are 24 or older and seeking job training to earn a living wage.

The state Financial Aid Office will oversee the grants, which will cover the remaining balance after a student's other financial aid and scholarships are applied. To participate in the

program, students must be Mississippi residents for at least two years.

UPSKILL would also provide eligible students with a \$500 annual stipend for books and other materials.

Additional details of the program's costs and funding source are still being ironed out, said Courtney Taylor, executive director of AccelerateMS, the state's workforce agency. The aim is to launch in January.

Hyde-Smith, Britt push for permanent reauthorization of E-Verify program

Mississippi U.S. Senator Cindy Hyde-Smith has joined U.S. Senator Katie Britt of Alabama to introduce legislation to permanently reauthorize the E-Verify program and require its use by all employers in the United States.

The Mandatory E-Verify Act of 2026 would establish a national standard for the E-Verify program, which is already mandatory across a number of states and federal entities, including the United States Senate.

"E-Verify used to confirm worker eligibility, but lax enforcement and open-border policies have weakened its effectiveness to guarantee that authorized workers, not ineligible illegal immigrants, are being hired," said Hyde-Smith, who serves on the Senate

Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee.

The Senators said the legislation would enhance civil and criminal penalties for employing illegal aliens,

strengthen fraud prevention measures within the

E-Verify program, and prohibit states from blocking or preventing employers from using E-Verify.

2025 Annual Drinking Water Quality Report

West Holmes Water Association
PWS# 26027
May 2026

We're pleased to present to you this year's Annual Quality Water Report. This report is designed to inform you about the quality water and services we deliver to you every day. Our constant goal is to provide you with a safe and dependable supply of drinking water. We want you to understand the efforts we make to continuously improve the water treatment process and protect our water resources. We are committed to ensuring the quality of your water.

The West Holmes Water Association works around the clock to provide top quality water to every tap. We ask that all our customers help us protect our water sources, which are the heart of our community, our way of life and our children's future.

Please share this information with anyone who drinks this water (or their guardians), especially those who may not have received the report directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses).

Contact & Meeting Information
If you have any questions about this report or concerning your water utility, please contact Kalya Davis, President, at 652.237.8762. We want our valued customers to be informed about their water utility. If you want to learn more, please join us at any of our regular scheduled meetings. They are held on the first Monday of each month at 6:00 PM at the office complex.

Source of Water
Our water source is from wells drawing from the Upper Meridian Wilcox Aquifer. The source water assessment has been completed for our public water system to determine the overall susceptibility of its drinking water supply to identify potential sources of contamination. A report containing detailed information on how the susceptibility determinations were made has been furnished to our public water system and is available for viewing upon request. The wells for the West Holmes Water Association have received moderate to higher rankings in terms of susceptibility to contamination.

Period Covered by Report
We routinely monitor for contaminants in your drinking water according to federal and state laws. This report is based on results of our monitoring period of January 1st to December 31st, 2025. In cases where monitoring wasn't required in 2025, the table reflects the most recent testing done in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations.

As water travels over the surface of land or underground, it dissolves naturally occurring minerals and, in some cases, radioactive materials and can pick up substances or contaminants from the presence of animals or from human activity. Microbial contaminants, such as viruses and bacteria, that may come from sewage treatment plants, septic systems, agricultural livestock operations, and wildlife; inorganic contaminants, such as salts and metals, which can be naturally occurring or result from urban storm-water runoff, industrial, or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming; pesticides and herbicides, which may come from a variety of sources such as agriculture, urban storm-water runoff, and residential uses; organic chemical contaminants, including synthetic and volatile organic chemicals, which are by-products of industrial processes and petroleum production, and can also come from gas stations and septic systems; radioactive contaminants, which can be naturally occurring or be the result of oil and gas production and mining activities. In order to ensure that tap water is safe to drink, EPA prescribes regulations that limit the amount of certain contaminants in water provided by public water systems. All drinking water, including bottled drinking water, may be reasonably expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. It's important to remember that the presence of these contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk.

We are required to monitor your drinking water for specific contaminants on a monthly basis. Results of regular monitoring are an indicator of whether or not our drinking water meets health standards. In addition to the contaminants listed in the table, we tested for additional chemicals for which the state and EPA have set standards. We found no detectable levels of those chemicals.

Violations
Our system had no violations. We're proud that your drinking water meets or exceeds all Federal and State requirements.

Lead Educational Statement
Lead can cause serious health problems, especially for pregnant women and your children. Lead in drinking water is primarily from materials and components associated with service lines and home plumbing. Our water system is responsible for providing high quality drinking water and removing lead pipes, but cannot control the variety of materials used in plumbing components in your home. You share the responsibility for protecting yourself and your family from the lead in your home plumbing. You can take responsibility by identifying and removing lead materials within your home plumbing and taking steps to reduce your family's risk. Before drinking tap water, flush your pipes for several minutes by running your tap, taking a shower, doing laundry or a load of dishes. You can also use a filter certified by an American National Standards Institute accredited certifier to reduce lead in drinking water. If you are concerned about lead in your water and wish to have your water tested, contact our water system. Information on lead in drinking water, testing methods, and steps you can take to minimize exposure are available at <https://www.epa.gov/leadinwater>.

Our system has completed the Lead Service Line Inventory, and no lead lines were found. The methods used to make that determination were visual inspections, water operator knowledge and archived records. This inventory report is available for viewing at our office upon request.

All sources of drinking water are subject to potential contamination by substances that are naturally occurring or man-made. These substances can be microbes, inorganic or organic chemicals and radioactive substances. At drinking water, including bottled water, may reasonably be expected to contain at least small amounts of some contaminants. The presence of contaminants does not necessarily indicate that the water poses a health risk. More information about contaminants and potential health effects can be obtained by calling the Environmental Protection Agency's Safe Drinking Water Hotline at 1.800.426.4791.

Some people may be more vulnerable to contaminants in drinking water than the general population. Immuno-compromised persons such as persons with cancer undergoing chemotherapy, persons who have undergone organ transplants, people with HIV/AIDS or other immune system disorders, some elderly, and infants can be particularly at risk from infections. These people should seek advice about drinking water from their health care providers. EPA/CDC guidelines on appropriate measures to lessen the risk of infection by Cryptosporidium and other microbiological contaminants are available from the Safe Drinking Water Hotline 1.800.426.4791.

TEST RESULTS									
Contaminant	Violation Y/N	Date Collected	Level Detected	Range of Detects or # of Samples Exceeding MCL/LCL/MRDL	Unit Measure	MCLG	MCL	AL	Likely Source of Contamination
Inorganic Contaminants - Salts and metals which can occur naturally in the soil or groundwater or may result from urban stormwater runoff. Industrial or domestic wastewater discharges, oil and gas production, mining, or farming.									
10. Barium	N	2024*	0144	0136 - 0144	ppm	2	2		Discharge of drilling wastes; discharge from metal refineries; erosion of natural deposits.
13. Chromium	N	2024*	4.9	No Range	ppb	100	100		Discharge from steel and pulp mills; erosion of natural deposits.
14. Copper	N	2021/23*	1	0	ppm	1.3	AL=1.3		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits; leaching from wood preservatives.
16. Fluoride	N	2024*	178	152 - 178	ppm	4	4		Erosion of natural deposits; water additive which promotes strong teeth; discharge from fertilizer and aluminum factories.
17. Lead	N	2021/23*	2	0	ppb	0	AL=15		Corrosion of household plumbing systems; erosion of natural deposits.
19. Nitrate (as Nitrogen)	N	2025	102	101 - 102	ppm	10	10		Runoff from fertilizer use; leaching from septic tanks, sewage; erosion of natural deposits.
Sodium	N	2025	15.8	12.6 - 15.8	ppm	20			Road Salt, Water Treatment Chemicals, Water Softeners and Sewage Effluents.
Disinfection By-Products - Substances formed when disinfectants, like Chlorine, used to treat drinking water react with naturally occurring materials in the water.									
B1. HAAS	N	2025	12.6	No Range	ppb	0	60		By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
B2. THM	N	2025	15.6	No Range	ppb	0	80		By-Product of drinking water disinfection.
Chlorine	N	2025	1.4 - RAA	59 - 1.88	mg/l	0	MRDL = 4		Water additive used to control microbes.

* Most recent sample. No sample required for 2025.

Terms and Abbreviations
In the table you may find unfamiliar terms and abbreviations you might not be familiar with. To help you better understand these terms we've provided the following definitions:

Action Level (AL) - The concentration of a contaminant which, if exceeded, triggers treatment or other requirements that a water system must follow.

Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) - The "Maximum Allowed" (MCL) is the highest level of a contaminant that is allowed in drinking water. MCLs are set as close to the MCLGs as feasible using the best available treatment technology.

Maximum Contaminant Level Goal (MCLG) - The "Goal" (MCLG) is the level of a contaminant in drinking water below which there is no known or expected risk to health. MCLGs allow for a margin of safety.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level (MRDL) - The highest level of a disinfectant allowed in drinking water. There is convincing evidence that addition of a disinfectant is necessary to control microbial contaminants.

Maximum Residual Disinfectant Level Goal (MRDLG) - The level of a drinking water disinfectant below which there is no known or expected risk of health. MRDLGs do not reflect the benefits of the use of disinfectants to control microbial contaminants.

Parts per billion (ppb) or micrograms per liter (µg/L) - one part by weight of analyte to 1 billion parts by weight of the water sample.

Parts per million (ppm) or Milligrams per liter (mg/L) - one part by weight of analyte to 1 million parts by weight of the water sample.

RAA: Running Annual Average

IN AND AROUND LEXINGTON BY LEONA (LENA) FIELDS

To get your news in this paper, call 662-834-1489 or 662-458-5788.

Monday, all the Nutrition sites for seniors were closed for Memorial Day. They reopened Tuesday. Other places were closed too.

Thursday night, May 28th, Gladys celebrated 30 years of work. She is not retiring yet. You can still go and buy good food.

TRIAD had their annual luncheon Wednesday, May 27th at the Multi-Purpose Complex in Lexington at 10:00 a.m.. The program consisted of an opening song by Mr. Thomas Keys, a scripture by Mrs. Linda Cunningham, a prayer by Mrs. Leona Fields, greetings by Mayor Percy Washington, a welcome by Verlinda Martin, the purpose of TRIAD by Sheriff Willie March, a reading by Mrs. Daisye McGee, grace by Mrs. Mary Day, a musical selection by

Mr. Thomas Keys, introduction of speaker by Mrs. JoAnn Garner, speaker Dr. Gerald Stinson, Jr. OD Eye Clinic in Lexington, and door prizes were given. Time was given to meet the vendors and meet the candidates.

Re. Bennie Thompson made a surprise stop by. He talked about Medicaid, youth, food pantries, and other things. Sen. Bradford Blackmon came by. Rep. Bryant Clark came by. Mr. Tim Howard came by.

Several vendors were on site. Closing remarks were made by the president, Mattie Young. Lunch was served to about 185 people. I enjoyed the Memorial Day weekend in Coffeeville, Mississippi.

The Farmer's Market has watermelons.

Trinity MB Church will have its anniversary the firsts Sunday in June.

June is the time for 4-H Horse Shows

Now in stock: horse tack, horse fly spray (ready to use), shampoo, white salt blocks, traking mineral blocks, and sulphur blocks for horses & cows

LEXINGTON FARM SUPPLY

Mon. - Fri. 8 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Sat. 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Highway 12 E 834-3388 Lexington