

# Blood Donations needed for Sickle Cell P. 3

# Allergy from Tick Bites P. 8

# 4-H Ambassador Pic P. 5

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HOLMES COUNTY

# HERALD

THURSDAY, JUNE 25, 2026

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 68 - NUMBER 26

## AG Fitch Secures Landmark Agreement with Roblox to Protect Children Online

*Big Tech put their profits ahead of our children's physical safety and mental wellbeing. That's unacceptable and we will continue to hold them accountable. Our children's future depends on our willingness to seek transformational change in this digital age, and we will accept nothing less. With this settlement, Mississippi is raising the bar on what we expect from these companies, and we will continue to press to bring other Big Tech companies to heel. Lynn Fitch (Jackson, Mississippi) Today, Attorney General*

Lynn Fitch announced a settlement with the popular gaming platform Roblox, securing transformational changes for children and teens, including:

- blocking adult interaction with teens and children,
- age verification and parental consents,
- no nighttime notifications, and
- access to only age-appropriate content.

"Big Tech put their profits ahead of our children's physical safety and mental wellbeing," said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. "That's

unacceptable and we will continue to hold them accountable. Our children's future depends on our willingness to seek transformational change in this digital age, and we will accept nothing less. With this settlement, Mississippi is raising the bar on what we expect from these companies, and we will continue to press to bring other Big Tech companies to heel."

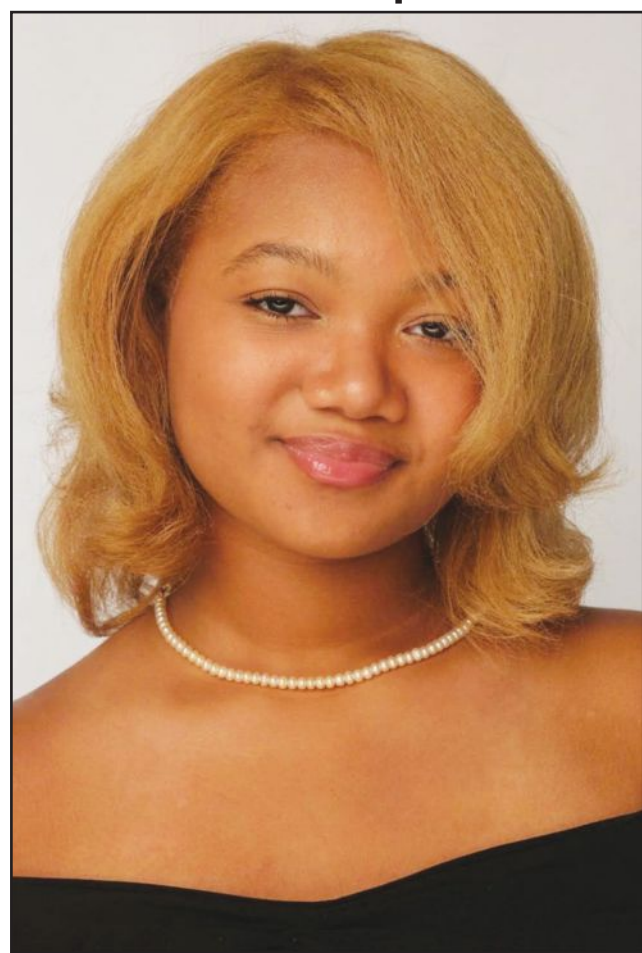
As part of the agreement with Roblox, parents will also have expanded control over their children's use of the platform, which allows parents to restrict who their children talk to, how long their children are online, and the games they access, as well as the transfer of in-game currency, "Robux." And default settings will not permit personalized advertising or push notifications without parental consent.

General Fitch also secured heightened standards to detect grooming behav-

ior, predatory conduct, and suspicious communication patterns involving minor users. Further, under the agreement, unlike other Big Tech companies that utilize or are moving to utilize end-to-end-encryption, Roblox will also commit to continue to not allow communication involving minors to be encrypted. Unencrypted communication allows law enforcement to be able to more easily combat child exploitation networks, trafficking, and the distribution of illegal and harmful content. Roblox will also hire an in-state law enforcement liaison to ensure the Attorney General's Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) Task Force and other law enforcement have real time or near-real-time 24-7-365 access.

The settlement also includes \$9 million to help fund new digital literacy education created, but not funded during the 2026 Legislative Session, as well as a fully-funded parental empowerment and education program. In addition, the settlement provides for liquidated damages of \$5 million to ensure Roblox's compliance with the terms of the agreement.

## SeMya Henderson Earns Full Ride Scholarship



SeMya Henderson

SeMya Henderson of Durant, Mississippi, has earned

a full academic scholarship to attend Northwestern University's Medill School of Journalism in Evanston, Illinois.

A member of the Class of 2030, SeMya will study journalism at one of the nation's leading programs.

Her family has deep roots in Holmes County, dating back to 1835 through the Noel family. She is the great granddaughter of Edmond "Eddie" Noel and LouEthel Noel, and the granddaughter of Ethel and Isaiah Henderson of Chicago IL by way of Lexington, Mississippi.

SeMya is the daughter of LaMonica Noel Henderson Meeks and Anthony Meeks of Durant.

## MSMS Class of 2026 Graduates



Le'Baudrio Boviã Bridgefurd

Columbus, MISS – Le'Baudrio Boviã Bridgefurd of Lexington, Mississippi, has graduated from The Mississippi School for Mathematics and Science (MSMS) in the Class of 2026.

Le'Baudrio previously attended Holmes County Central High School, and is the child of Betty Bridgefurd and Ricky Bridgefurd. Le'Baudrio will be attending The University of Southern Mississippi this fall.

MSMS is our state's nationally recognized residential high school for academically advanced eleventh and twelfth graders. This graduating class has accepted more than \$15.9 million of \$34.2 million offered in scholarships to attend universities all over Mississippi and the nation.

MSMS has been consistently ranked the #1 Public High School in Mississippi and among the Top 20 Best Public High Schools in the Nation by NICHE.com. (Continued on page 9.)

## McRae Celebrates America250 with \$250 MACS Scholarships

JACKSON, Miss. – Treasurer David McRae today announced the State Treasury has opened an official MACS scholarship giveaway to celebrate America's 250th birthday. Now through July 3, 2026, students across Mississippi are invited to register for a chance to win one of 10 \$250 Mississippi Affordable College Savings (MACS) account scholarships.

"Two hundred and fifty

years ago, America's Founders took an extraordinary leap of faith and built a nation around a simple idea: that every person should have the opportunity to build a better future," said McRae. "Generation after generation we expand upon that promise to ensure every citizen has the opportunity to work hard and get ahead. My hope is that these scholarships help ensure tomorrow's Americans have even

greater opportunities than we enjoy today."

To enter the giveaway, please visit [treasury.ms.gov/America250](https://treasury.ms.gov/America250) and complete the registration form. Winners will be chosen at random and will receive notice on July 10. For more information, please view the giveaway rules here.

For more information or to book an interview, please contact Brittany Comins at [press@treasury.ms.gov](mailto:press@treasury.ms.gov).

\$1.00 Single Copy



Thursday  
Partly Cloudy  
72/87

Precip. Chance  
24%



Friday  
Partly Cloudy  
75/92

Precip. Chance  
15%



Saturday  
Mostly Sunny  
75/92

Precip. Chance  
9%



Sunday  
Mostly Sunny  
75/93

Precip. Chance  
7%



Monday  
Sunny  
75/95

Precip. Chance  
8%



Tuesday  
Mostly Sunny  
75/95

Precip. Chance  
24%



Wednesday  
Mostly Sunny  
75/95

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