

# Miss. 4-H Ambassadors meet state leaders at 2026 4-H Legislative Day



Mississippi 4-H'ers including, from left Annalyn Cates of Lamar County, Karley Jo Harrison of Union County, Hannah Hood of Holmes County, Connor Stokes of Monroe County, Joshua Brown of Lee County, and Michaela Failla of Hancock County, met and talked with Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, seated. Story by Leah Bowers | Photo by Kevin Hudson. Each year, Mississippi 4-H Ambassadors travel to the State Capitol to meet their representatives, senators, and other state leaders of Mississippi. The 2026 visit gave these 4-H leaders the chance to meet the state's top decision-makers: Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, Lieutenant Governor Delbert Hosemann, and Speaker of the House Jason White. Mississippi 4-H Ambassadors from Holmes County include: Orin Howell, Jordan Brooks, Emma Claire Burwell, Hannah Hood.

# AG Fitch Announces \$12.3-Million in Medicaid Fraud Indictments

*These indictments are just the latest efforts we are taking to fight waste, fraud, and corruption. I am proud to partner with President Trump to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure that money meant to help those in need is not stolen from safety net programs. I will remain laser-focused on rooting out fraud, recovering money wrongfully stolen from hard-working taxpayers, and holding fraudsters accountable.*

**Lynn Fitch**

(Jackson, Mississippi) Today, Attorney General Lynn Fitch announced that 11 individuals have been indicted for Medicaid fraud, for a total of more than \$12.3 million. These indictments are part of Attorney General Fitch's ongoing effort to combat fraud. Since taking office, Attorney General Fitch has secured 58 criminal convictions and 61 civil settlements for fraud, recovering more than \$101 million for Mississippi taxpayers.

"These indictments are just the latest efforts we are taking to fight waste, fraud, and corruption," said Attorney General Lynn Fitch. "I am proud to partner with President Trump to protect taxpayer dollars and ensure that money meant to help those in need is not stolen

from safety net programs. I will remain laser-focused on rooting out fraud, recovering money wrongfully stolen from hard-working taxpayers, and holding fraudsters accountable." The following state court indictments were announced for fraudulent billing, wire fraud, and/or false documentation seeking to defraud the government:

- Isluv Robertson, 36, of Jackson, Mississippi;
- Shawncee Vassar-Cunningham, 51, of Olive Branch, Mississippi;
- Katricia Smith, 47, of Olive Branch, Mississippi;
- Sheila Boney Collins, 53, of Hollandale, Mississippi;
- Ahyana Nicole Crosby, 34, of Laurel, Mississippi;
- Angela Nannette Crosby, 51, of Laurel, Mississippi;
- Christopher Curtis Moore, 51, of Gulfport, Mississippi;
- Taylor Christian Rushing, 34, of Gautier, Mississippi;
- Yolanda Evette Blackman, 54, of Hattiesburg, Mississippi;
- Linda Jenkins, 46, of Hermanville, Mississippi; and
- Deja Almore, 30, of Yazoo City, Mississippi.

The indictments were included in the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ)

National Health Care Fraud Takedown, which resulted in criminal charges against 455 defendants, including doctors, nurse practitioners, pharmacists, and other licensed medical professionals, in 45 U.S. states and territories, for their alleged participation in various health care fraud schemes involving over \$6.5 billion in intended loss.

In May, Attorney General Fitch met with Vice President JD Vance and the White House Task Force to Eliminate Fraud in Washington, DC, and presented a 5-point plan for improving Medicaid fraud enforcement. Just last week, AG Fitch brought in Department of Agriculture (USDA)-OIG Special Agent-in-Charge Matt Wilkins to train nearly 300 state government attorneys on best practices for ferreting out and fighting fraud.

If you suspect Medicaid fraud, you can file a complaint with the Mississippi Attorney General's Office Medicaid Fraud Control Unit online.

Indictments are only charges and not proof of guilt. Our constitution guarantees that defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty. The Attorney General's Office will prosecute these cases.



## July 4th & Music

July is National Grilling Month. Over 74 million Americans are planning on grilling on the 4th of July. Over \$7.5 billion will be spent on food for the holiday. The most popular grilled food is hot dogs. Over 150 million will be consumed on the 4th.

The 4th of July holiday sets the tone for the rest of the summer. Red, white, and blue foods are also on the menu. Think strawberries, raspberries, blueberries, white grapes, cherry tomatoes, watermelon, and whipped cream. I love to buy the blue tortilla chips that are available this time of year. Red, white, and blue M & M's are perfect for homemade cookies to accompany those freezers full of freshly churned ice cream.

After you have planned all your holiday food and decorations for this extremely popular holiday, don't forget about the music. Music sets the tone for a lot of what we do. Certain songs lend themselves to certain holidays and celebrations.

There are always the tried-and-true patriotic songs to enjoy. Add these summer favorites to pepper in for a perfect 4th of July BBQ. Remember music for all your summertime festivities.

- \*Born in the USA – Bruce Springsteen
- \*America – Simon & Garfunkel
- \*Party in the U.S.A – Miley Cyrus
- \*American Woman – Lenny Kravitz
- \*American Soldier – Toby Keith
- \*R.O.C.K. in the USA – John Mellencamp
- \*American Pie – Don McLean
- \*America- Neil Diamond
- \*American Saturday Night – Brad Paisley
- \*God Bless the U.S.A. – Lee Greenwood
- \*American Girl – Tom Petty & the Heartbreakers
- \*Living in America – James Brown

I hope you all have a great 4th of July holiday.

Remember those who have sacrificed for each of us – God Bless America. Thanks for reading.

### BLUEBERRY POUND CAKE

- 1 boxed yellow cake mix
- 1 regular box vanilla pudding
- 4 eggs
- ¾ cup milk
- ¼ cup butter, melted
- 1/3 cup sour cream
- 2 cups fresh blueberries, mixed with 2 Tbsp. flour (To keep berries from sinking to bottom of cake.)

Mix all ingredients together; fold in blueberries gently to keep from breaking. Bake at 350 degrees for 40 – 50 minutes.

- Glaze: (If desired)
  - 2 Tbsp. milk
  - 1 cup powdered sugar.
- Mix until desired consistency. Drizzle over cake.

### FRESH PEACH POUND CAKE

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 3 cups sugar
- 6 large eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla extract
- ¼ tsp. rum extract
- ½ cup sour cream
- 1 (3 oz.) pkg. peach Jell-O
- 3 cups plain flour
- ½ tsp. salt
- ¼ tsp. baking soda
- ¼ tsp. cinnamon
- 1/8 tsp. nutmeg
- 2 cups fresh chopped

peaches  
Preheat oven to 325 degrees; spray a tube or Bundt pan with baking spray with flour. In a large bowl, beat butter and sugar until light and fluffy; add eggs one at a time and beat well after each. Stir in vanilla and rum extracts; in a small bowl, mix Jell-O with sour cream. In a separate bowl, mix flour, salt, baking soda, cinnamon, and nutmeg. Gradually add flour mixture butter mixture, beating well to combine. Fold in sour cream mixture and spoon batter into prepared pan. Bake for 1 hour; cover loosely with foil and bake another 45 minutes. Check with toothpick for doneness. Let cool for 10 minutes in pan and cool completely on a wire rack.

### FRESH STRAWBERRY PIE

- 1 cup water
- 1 cup sugar
- 3 Tbsp. cornstarch
- 1 small package strawberry Jell-O
- 1 pound strawberries (Cleaned, stemmed, and left whole)
- 1 (9-inch) deep-dish pie crust, baked

Whipped Cream Topping  
Blend, water, sugar and cornstarch in a medium boiler and cook over medium heat until becomes thick; stirring occasionally. You will know it is thick enough when it coats the back of a spoon, and glaze slowly comes off the spoon; add strawberry gelatin and stir to combine. Pour mixture over strawberries that have been piled high into the baked pie crust. Chill at least 3-4 hours before serving. Top slices with whipped topping.

\*Lee Ann Fleming is a Holmes County native, food columnist and has garnered fame for her recipes featured in the film, *The Help*. Fleming can be reached at [lafkitchen@hughes.net](mailto:lafkitchen@hughes.net).

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