THE WICKER REPORT By: United States Senator Roger Wicker

Wicker Supports **New Effort to Fight Opioid Abuse**

Legislation Would Target Shipping of Illegal Drugs, Promote Telemedicine and Research

The current opioid epi- number of deaths caused by demic has become one of car accidents. The problem our nation's leading killers, demanding an aggressive and comprehensive response from Washington. A major legislative package passed by the Senate this month would significantly strengthen the support Congress is providing to states and communities on the front lines of opioid addiction.

Estimates from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention show fatalities from drug overdoses have conpast year. They exceed the

is so pervasive that President Trump has declared it a "public health emergency." Last year, 256 Mississippians died from drug overdoses. Most of these deaths were opioid-related.

Measures to Keep Drugs Out, Make Treatment More Accessible

The "Opioid Crisis Response Act" harnesses policy ideas from five Senate committees to prevent and treat opioid abuse. One of the measures would institinued to increase over the tute new requirements at the Postal Service for screening

the deadliest drugs from getfirst place. Powerful synthetic opioids like fentanyl - often shipped from China - are making the problem worse. Fentanyl contributed to nearly half of the opioid deaths in 2016.

Congress is also turning to technology to help facilitate a lasting recovery. Included in the Senate's opioid bill is the "Expanding Telehealth Response to Ensure Addiction Treatment Act." I coauthored this legislation to promote telemedicine as an accessible and effective treatment option for substance abuse. The measure would lift Medicare restrictions on the use of these telehealth services, enabling those who are suffering to get help more easily.

Innovative Approaches for Public Health

Alongside these technological advancements is the promise of breakthrough research, such as the development of a non-addictive painkiller that could offer relief for pain without the



Inside Holmes County	y\$35.00
In Mississippi	
	\$50.00

"Opioid Crisis Response ting into the country in the Act" recognizes the need for the National Institutes of Health (NIH) to do this help expedite a successful reach: NIH Director Fran- cess. The first of these prize cis Collins has suggested it competitions is already uncould be developed within five years.

2018

I am encouraged by Congress's support for innohealth challenges, such dementia. The same deteras opioid addiction or Al- mination and creative think-

Community Coffee Co. introduces Community **Cash for Schools to** Mississippi

For 30 years, the Community Cash for Schools® program has helped schools throughout the Southeastern United States earn money by collecting Proofs of Purchase from all Trafton Academv PictureCommunity® brand products. These funds are used for programs and initiatives that best serve students' needs, such as new playground equipment, textbooks, computers, school events and more. Since the program's inception, Community Coffee Company has helped public and private schools generate over \$7.4 million.

"We began the Commu- coffee and tea products purnity Cash for Schools® chased at grocery stores, program three decades ago hotels and businesses. As as a way to support our lo- a whole, schools then subcal community," said Da- mit the labels as instructed vid Belanger, President and at CommunityCoffee.com/ CEO of Community Coffee CashforSchools. Once sub-Company. "We're thrilled mitted, these product Proofs for the opportunity to bring of Purchase are redeemed the program to our neighbors for cash that each school can

international mail, stopping risk of dependency. The zheimer's disease. I au- ing should be applied to the thored the "EUREKA Act" in 2015 as a way to get the nation's brightest minds working together toward a cutting-edge research, of- cure for Alzheimer's. The fering greater flexibility to law directs NIH to create prize competitions that offer outcome. A non-addictive a financial reward to those painkiller is within our who achieve research sucderway, announced by the NIH's National Institute on Aging earlier this month. I am optimistic it will lead to vative approaches to our a breakthrough in caring for nation's most devastating those with Alzheimer's or

in Mississippi and to be able

to give back to more schools,

students and communities."

Last year, more than

800 schools participated

in the Community Cash

for Schools® program and

earned over \$328,500 for

their teachers and students.

More than 75 schools earned

over \$1,000, and the top

earning school, Sts. Leo-

Seton Catholic School in La-

fayette, LA, earned \$6,800

In order to participate, stu-

dents, teachers and their local

communities work together

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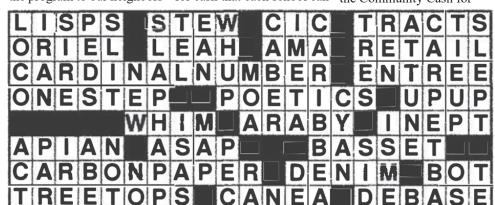
alone.

spend on programs that support children's educational

To sign up, school administrators should visit CommunityCoffee.com/CashforSchools and click on the "Enroll Now" link. Before enjoying a rich, smooth cup of Community® coffee, customers should remember to save Proof of Purchase labels from all Community® products. After collecting these labels, school administrators can then download the Tracking Form online and bundle all labels as instructed.

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Community Coffee Company is committed to supporting the local communities where we do business and dedicates approximately 2.5% of its pretax income to socially responsible charitable programs, which is well above the industry average. Additionally, education and the Community Cash for



opioid crisis.

*Felony Arrest

(Continued from page 1.) for felony possession of marijuana with the intent to sell and possession of paraphernalia.

Interim Durant Police Chief Zelie Shaw said Brooks was found with over four ounces (126 grams) of the illegal psychoactive drug.

Brooks is being housed at the Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility until bond is set.

needs.

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