

***Wicker**
(Continued from page 3.)
Committee. I am hopeful 5G will bring opportunities to improve the lives of the citizens in our state.

Jobs for Mississippi
Many areas of Mississippi still lack broadband internet access and wireless cell phone coverage. This urban-rural divide exists across the country and puts those who live in less-populated areas at a disadvantage for economic opportunities. As the U.S. begins to deploy 5G networks, it will be more important to ensure a level playing field for rural communities.

With improved internet connections, many workers may prefer the quality of life we enjoy in Mississippi and choose to work remotely – away from congested metropolitan areas. This option could reduce the “brain drain,” which costs our state some of our most talented students after graduation. Better connectivity and data could also revolutionize agriculture and address other challenges to make living in rural areas even more attractive.

Modern farming operations increasingly seek higher levels of efficiency. Networked

rainfall sensors, advanced GPS mapping technology, and other internet-connected equipment allow farmers to maximize crop yields using less fertilizer and water.

With nearly 37,000 farms covering more than 10 million acres and generating more than \$7 billion in economic activity, Mississippi could reap major rewards from 5G-enabled networks. My “Precision Agriculture Connectivity Act,” which was signed into law last year, will help make these ambitions a reality by expanding broadband availability to more cropland and ranchland.

Improving Rural Health and Safety
Data delivered over wireless networks can also be a game-changer for emergency response and telehealth services, equipping first responders with life-saving information. As 5G tools improve bandwidth and reduce delays, new applications, like portable sensors, “wearables,” and unmanned systems, will become more commonplace. These tools will help save lives by reducing emergency response times, particularly when a patient is far away from a major hospital.

Thanks to the work of many talented individuals at the University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC) and the Raspet Flight Laboratory at Mississippi State University, these sci-fi predictions of the future are quickly becoming a reality.

These efforts coincide with the work of the UMMC Telehealth Center of Excellence, which has already been improving outcomes for patients by offering access to high-quality care across the state. 5G technology will help these organizations expand their services to more areas.

These are but a few examples of how 5G technology should benefit our state and nation. As the Commerce Committee considers ways to enhance 5G expansion in the United States, I am mindful of the many challenges facing the deployment of this new technology including regulatory hurdles, international competition, and data privacy and security

Judge Donna Barnes to become Chief Judge of MS Court of Appeals

Judge Donna M. Barnes of Tupelo will become Chief Judge of the Mississippi Court of Appeals on Feb. 1.

An investiture ceremony will be held at 1 p.m. Feb. 1 at the Gartin Justice Building in Jackson. Guest speakers will be Gov. Haley Barbour, who appointed Judge Barnes to the Court of Appeals in July 2004, and Joy Lambert Phillips, the first woman president of the Mississippi Bar.

Chief Judge Barnes will be the first woman to lead the state Court of Appeals. Also, for the first time in its 24-year history, four of the 10 judges of the Mississippi Court of Appeals are women.

concerns. I look forward to representing the interests of Mississippians as these important discussions continue.

Presiding Justice Michael K. Randolph, who will become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court on Feb. 1, said that he will appoint Judge Barnes as Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals on his first day as leader of the Mississippi Judiciary. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court selects the Court of Appeals Chief Judge from the members of that court.

“Judge Barnes by her training, tenure and temperament is the obvious choice to lead the Court of Appeals,” said Justice Randolph. “She is well-suited to take on the additional duties of Chief Judge. She is a legal scholar. Her private practice experience focused on appellate advocacy, and she has 14 ½ years of experience on the bench.”

Supreme Court Chief

Justice Bill Waller Jr. said, “Judge Barnes will be an outstanding Chief Judge.”

Judge Barnes said, “The Court of Appeals has always had excellent leadership and I’m honored to be called upon to continue that tradition.”

Judge Barnes will replace Judge T. Kenneth Griffis of Ridgeland as Chief Judge. Judge Griffis became Chief Judge on Jan. 2, but will leave the Court of Appeals on Jan. 31. Gov. Phil Bryant has appointed him to a vacancy on the Supreme Court effective Feb. 1.

Leadership changes on the state’s two appellate courts were set in motion by the retirements of Court of Appeals Chief Judge L. Joseph Lee and Presiding Judge Tyree Irving on Dec. 31 and Supreme Court Chief Justice Waller’s retirement on Jan. 31. The Chief Justice of the Supreme Court appoints the Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals from among that court’s 10 members. Chief
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1st February

ACROSS

- 1 ___ alai
- 4 "Lark's Tongue in ___" (King Crimson)
- 9 Mrs. who chewed the fat
- 14 Stunning defeat
- 19 Bruins great
- 20 R&R
- 21 Make ecstatic
- 22 Soap plant
- 23 Holmes, in retirement
- 25 Scruffs
- 26 Emulates an esne
- 27 Less loopy
- 28 Holmes's debut
- 31 ___ Indies
- 33 Odin's Sleipnir
- 34 "Huzzah!," in Chihuahua
- 35 Vandyke, e.g.
- 37 Itinerary abbr.
- 38 Champ
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- 43 Caddie's kin
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- 50 In toto
- 51 ___ jacket
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- 60 Schoolmarm's hair arrangement
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- 68 Hart work
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- 74 The, in Berlin
- 76 Play with some cats
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- 80 Markdown tag
- 81 Removes a brooch
- 84 Maritime agcy.
- 85 Home of Holmes's creator
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- 90 Property claim
- 91 Just lose it

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- 111 Label again
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- 118 Speak formally
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- 120 Eucharist plate
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- 123 Crowned head
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- 3 She intrigued Holmes
- 4 Sandarac wood
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- 6 ___ Doc (Haitian kleptocrat)
- 7 Burly Burl
- 8 Brand of breath mints
- 9 UPS user
- 10 Golfer Gary
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- 12 ___ asteroid
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- 15 Love: Ital.
- 16 Snake shape
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- 18 Take a load off
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