

# Wicker backs **COVID-19** relief package Congress approves new aid

and several Wicker-led bills The week of December from home during the pan-27, President Trump signed demic.

## Landmark Bills Will **Benefit Mississippi**

The government fundthe end of fiscal year 2021. ing package included ad-The measure passed Con- ditional measures that will gress with huge majorities benefit Mississippi. I helped after congressional leaders guarantee support for new worked closely with Presibroadband data maps, which dent Trump's senior leader- will lead to more broadship team to craft the final band development in unagreement. Days later, Presi- served areas. Congress also dent Trump signed the bill approved millions to help into law. Although it does deploy broadband in rural

I worked to secure funding in 2019. I hope this study to help American companies will lead to new projects that remove and replace Chinese equipment from their telecommunications networks, which could be used to spy on Americans.

Lawmakers passed another major priority in the Wa- Act, which will improve the ter Resources Development safety of pipelines that de-Act. This bill could lead to liver energy to our commumore investment in Missis- nities. Congress also passed sippi seaports, like the Port my legislation overhauling of Gulfport and the Port of the certification process for Pascagoula, and harbors in commercial aircraft after my Biloxi, Port Bienville, and committee's investigation Bay St. Louis. It will boost revealed troubling oversight funding availability for envi- failures. This legislation ronmental projects in DeSo- will correct those regulato and Jackson Counties, tory lapses and improve the and create feasibility studies safety of our aviation sysfor projects in Jackson, Han- tem. Taken as a whole, this cock, and Jones Counties. I year-end legislation will adwrote a provision requiring vance America's economic a study on the impacts of and security interests as we not contain every priority communities, which I have flooding that overwhelmed enter 2021.

long supported. In addition, the Bonnet Carré Spillway will reduce flooding along the Lower Mississippi River. Congress also approved several bills I have been working to pass since 2019. One of those is the PIPES

# **Mississippi county: Beaver dams could** cause roadway flooding

#### **Associated Press**

Mississippi Delta say bea- ty administrator, said last ver dams in creeks and other week that communication bodies of water could lead had fallen apart between the to flooding on roadways county and the USDA. during the rainy winter season.

Leflore County road man- \$7,500 a year. ager Jerry Smith said it's important to break up dams need to take some kind of "because if you leave some action because this is gothere and we get a lot of ing to be a hindrance to Mr. rain, we are going to get a Smith and the entire unit lot of flooding."

wealth reported that Leflore visor Reginald Moore said. supervisors voted in August "So let's see if we can wave to take part in the U.S. De- a red flag to the USDA and partment of Agriculture's say, 'Hey, this is an emer-Beaver Control Program. gency situation.""

But, Chancery Clerk Johnny Officials in part of the Gary Jr., who is also coun-

> The price for the Leflore County to participate is

"At this point, we really if they are going out and The Greenwood Common- breaking up dams," Super-



## pandemic. **Direct Relief** for Americans

the President or I wanted,

this measure will provide a

much-needed boost to families, workers, and businesses weathering the effects of this

a new COVID-19 relief bill

paired with legislation to

fund the government through

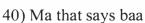
Earlier in 2020, Congress passed the largest relief package in U.S. history to meet the urgent needs arising from the coronavirus pandemic. Although many have regained employment, millions still remain out of work, and eight million Americans have fallen into poverty. The food, entertainment, and travel industries are particularly hard-hit by ongoing health restrictions. It is clear that Americans need a fresh round of assistance.

The new aid package provides direct payments of \$600 for every adult making up to \$75,000, plus \$600 for each child. It expands weekly unemployment benefits by \$300 for 10 weeks, a short-term lift that will help unemployed Americans until they can find work again. It also adds \$285 billion to reopen the Paycheck Protection Program, allowing more small businesses to receive forgivable loans to keep employees on the payroll. The bill encourages employers to provide paid sick leave by offering a tax credit. And it provides new support for agriculture and the transpor-

## ACROSS ·

- 1) "No \_\_\_\_, no foul"
- 5) Big game venue
- 10) Not present or future
- 14) Involved in a yacht race
- 15) Buoyed wreckage
- 16) Reed instrument
- 17) Move emotionally
- 18) Like a noble gas
- 19) Give the cold shoulder
- 20) Cutters in craft stores
- 23) Trapshooting
- 24) Nightingale or Barton
- 25) Butted
- 28) David Bowie's rock type
- 30) The eye has it
- 31) Mocking imitation
- 33) Snake that killed a queen
- 36) Of royal lineage

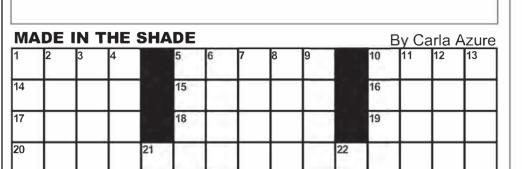
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- 41) TV studio sign
- 42) Wife of Osiris
- 43) Oktoberfest quaff
- 44) Measure of reflected light
- 46) Gestation stations
- 49) Meal with bitter herbs
- 51) Wallflower's cousin
- 57) Spontaneous motivation
- 58) "Too many cooks spoil the
- broth," e.g.
- 59) Brass subordinate
- 60) Triangle, in a child's drawing

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- 61) Bus fare
- 62) Bit of bird food
- 63) Cat and dog
- 64) Far from drowsy
- 65) Casks

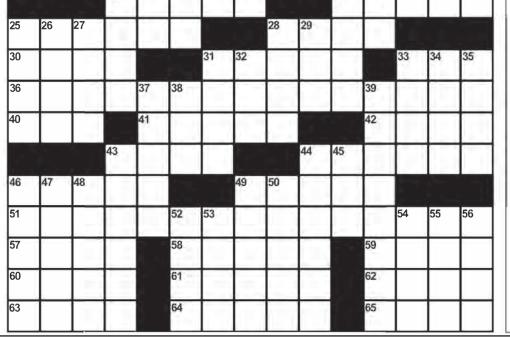


DOWN

- 1) Padlock partner
- spumante (sparkling wine) 2)
- 3) Horse control
- 4) Sharpshooter
- 5) Straight, as wheels
- 6) Cowboy's milieu
- 7) Cast out
- 8) "Traffic" cop
- 9) Matter or freeze start
- 10) Certain marsupial
- 11) Despise with a passion
- 12) Becomes disenchanted
- 13) In need of a massage
- 21) Eisenhower, casually
- 22) Messy situation
- 25) Hardly a sophisticate
- 26) State solemnly
- 27) Type of formality
- 28) Ending with "church" or "movie"
- 29) Prune, as a tree branch
- 31) Dipper part
- 32) 21st Greek letter
- 33) Church feature
- 34) Tried to avoid a tag
- 35) Banco de Mexico concern
- 37) Dip one's the water (test)
- 38) It's heard before a liftoff
- 39) Hearty dinner dish
- 43) They may compete with boxers
- 44) Pre-Christmas period
- 45) Oahu souvenir
- 46) Take forcibly
- 47) Severe spasm

tation sector, which are suffering severe losses.

This legislation will also boost our nation's effort to defeat the coronavirus. The bill directs billions to support the distribution of vaccines, which are already reaching at-risk individuals and frontline workers. It designates \$22 billion for COVID-19 testing and tracing efforts. And it sends more than \$90 billion to schools, universities, and daycares to help cover expenses necessary for safe reopening. I helped secure additional funding to support telehealth, enabling more people to receive care



48) Rye fungus 49) Charmer's critter 50) Ham-and-\_\_\_ (oaf) 52) Martial arts workout 53) Pagan figurine 54) "In \_\_\_\_ of flowers ..." 55) Tree of Life site 56) Spreads leaves for drying