

# Mississippi university tuition to rise 4 percent, on average

**Associated Press**  
 Mississippi's eight public universities plan to raise tuition by an average of 4 percent next fall, saying lingering effects from state budget cuts two years ago require them to get more revenue from students.

The College Board on Thursday, April 19, preliminarily approved additional tuition increases at all of the universities. Trustees will vote again next month to finalize the changes.

The statewide average for two semesters of full-time tuition and fees will rise by an average of \$302 to \$7,805 for in-state undergraduates.

Increases range from 5.6 percent at Delta State University to 2 percent at Mississippi Valley State University.

Universities are scheduled to get \$85 million less in state money in the 2019 budget year beginning July 1 than they did in the 2016 budget year.

Total spending will rise about 1 percent next year, but will remain 11 percent below 2016 levels.

Delta State President Bill LaForge said employees have gone three years without a pay raise. He said Delta State had to raise tuition again "just to keep our heads above water."

"We just have to do it, it's the cost of business," LaForge said. "We have to keep our faculty. I'm losing faculty."

LaForge said Delta State would use part of the \$585,000 in projected revenue to grant "a very modest pay raise."

Students interviewed Wednesday at Jackson State University, where the school merged departments and laid off employees last year because of a financial crisis, voiced concerns about paying more and getting less.

"That's a lot of money when you're in debt," said Zela Willis, a sophomore accounting major from Tulsa, Oklahoma. "If the tuition is going up, is the morale on campus, is our living going to go up? Is that going to improve?"

Timothy Young, a senior from Jackson majoring in marketing, said even a small increase can

# MDOC reducing inmates at regional facilities

The Mississippi Department of Corrections is decreasing the number of inmates at regional facilities to contractual levels because it doesn't have the money to pay counties more.

The Legislature did not fund a \$3.6 million deficit in the regional program in the current budget year.

"I informed lawmakers in writing and at several committee hearings that the agency needed deficit appropriations for four areas: Medical, private prisons, regionals and local confinement combined for a total deficit of nearly \$20 million this year," Commissioner Pelicia E. Hall said. "We took measures to erase the shortage in local confinement and communicated that. However, budget appropriations addressed deficits in private and medical only."

The department values its relationship with counties, Commissioner Hall said, however, the agency sees no other option after reviewing its finances.

Linking the reopening of the Delta Correctional Facility in Greenwood to the regional program is deceptive, considering how transparent MDOC

has been about the reason for using the facility, Commissioner Hall said.

"Delta is housing offenders not classified for regionals, and MDOC is operating this facility, not a private contractor, using money from the consolidation of four facilities," Commissioner Hall said. "So why bring up Delta?"

Letters have been sent to all sheriffs housing inmates above the contractual level to notify them of MDOC's decision.

MDOC has agreements with all regional facilities to house MDOC inmate populations above the required minimum at \$20 per day versus the rate of \$29.74 per day.

The department has been housing additional inmates at the regionals because of the closure of some SMCI units resulting from lack of staffing/officer safety concerns. However, the department has no choice but to maximize the use of existing staff to securely house those returning offenders.

Delivery of programming will be hampered because of the lack of additional staff to perform those functions.

## Businesses and Services Directory



**NO BONES ABOUT IT!**

**THIS SPOT COULD BE YOURS!**

Call the **Herald** to find out how! 662-834-1151

**\$16/WEEK**

**Three Months Minimum**

### Premier Pre-Owned

- 2016 FUSION 31k mi.
- 2014 FUSION 38k mi.
- 2016 TAURUS SEL 31k mi.
- 2016 FUSION 15k mi.
- 2015 FUSION 29k mi.
- 2017 LINCOLN MKZ 7k mi.
- 2015 EDGE 31k mi.
- 2017 ESCAPE 28k mi.
- 2017 LARIAT F150 4X4
- 2017 EXPEDITION XLT EL
- 2017 LINC NAVIGATOR L
- 2017 XLT SUPER CREW
- 2017 LINCOLN MKC



## HAMMETT MOTOR CO.

INTERSECTION OF HWY. 12 W & 51 N

662-653-3141 DURANT

FIND US ON THE WEB AT: [www.hammettmotorco.com](http://www.hammettmotorco.com)

**SCOTT PETROLEUM CORPORATION**  
[www.scottpetroleuminc.com](http://www.scottpetroleuminc.com)



309 Depot St.  
 Lexington, MS 39095

Office: 662-834-1089  
 Fax: 662-834-6082  
 Cell: 662-299-7461  
[kjoiner@scottpetroleuminc.com](mailto:kjoiner@scottpetroleuminc.com)

**KENNY JOINER**  
 Division Manager

Visit us in Tchula, Lexington, Durant, Pickens and Canton.

## LEXINGTON home center

109 Carrollton  
 Lexington • 662-834-9007



Locally owned and operated!



Quality Paints.

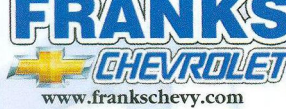
Need help getting approved for Long Term Care?

Let us guide you through the application process.

### Durant Healthcare, LLC



MON. - FRI. 9 A.M. TO 5 P.M. • 662-653-4106  
 15481 BOWLING GREEN ROAD • DURANT, MS

**FRANKS CHEVROLET**  
[www.frankschevy.com](http://www.frankschevy.com)



sfranks@frankschevy.com  
 Office (662) 289-4611  
 Fax (662) 633-4400

**STEPHEN FRANKS**

1001 Hwy 35 N • Kosciusko, MS 39090

### Jim Arnold

Attorney at Law

- Chapter 13 Bankruptcy • No upfront fee except filing fee
- Chapter 7 Bankruptcy • \$750 plus filing fee
- No Fault Divorces • \$399 plus court fees



Call for an appointment 662-653-6448 or 601-656-6914



Look no further than the Holmes County Herald Business Directory!

### God's Corner Gardener

Floral Crosses Gardens

Donna Horrall, (Formerly of Hearts and Flowers) Designer

662-792-4050 • 526 S Natchez St. • Kosciusko

### D's Diner

51 Depot St. Lexington  
 (662) 450-8131



Monday - Thursday 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
 Friday - Saturday 10 a.m. - 11 p.m. (May Vary)

