

What happens to your garden when you die?

See Felder Rushing's column

ON PAGE 11!

RECIPE FOR MAMAW'S COCA-COLA HAM SEE PAGE 5



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THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

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Sheriff March facing funds shortfall to house state inmates

By Matthew Breazeale

The capacity to house state inmates at the Holmes-Humphreys Regional Correctional Facility (HHRCF) is being threatened according to Holmes County Sheriff Willie March.

A Mississippi senate bill, S.B. 2684, is being championed by fifteen regional jails across the state to increase the per diem (per day) fund-

ing for a local jail to house a state inmate.

There are currently 273 state inmates (as of Monday, March 9) incarcerated at the HHRCF; the jail can house up to 280, according to HHRCF Warden Barry Rule.

March said Holmes' jail is now only getting around \$20.00 per day for one inmate. Facilities directly operated by Mississippi De-

partment of Corrections are allocated "approximately \$45.00 per day to house the same inmate in their facility," according to a prepared argument in favor of the per diem increase.

Regional correctional facilities, like in Holmes County, aren't receiving enough per diem to feed, provide medical care for state inmates and pay security personnel.

Two arrests made in Tchula drug activity

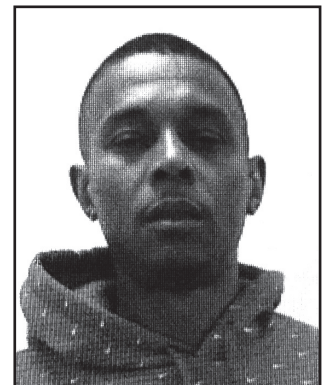
By Matthew Breazeale

Two men from Tchula were arrested in connection to drug activity in the town.

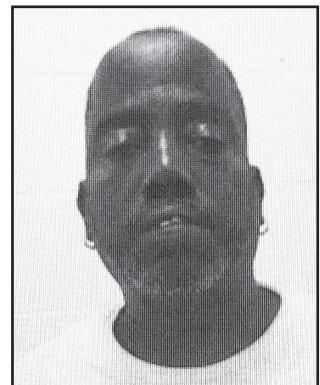
Holmes County Sheriff Willie March said his department had received multiple complaints at least within the

past month of ongoing drug activities. March added, that some complaints reported that increased traffic, in at least one neighborhood, was impeding local residents from safely getting to and from

(Continued on page 2.)



TERRENCE WEBSTER



JOHN WINSTON

United States Postal Service suspends priority mail express to China, Hong Kong

Press Release

The US Postal Service is closely monitoring the coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and continues to follow strategies and measures recommended by the CDC and Public Health Department. The CDC has information available on its website, <https://www.cdc.gov>, that provides the latest information about the virus.

We continue to have a temporary suspension of the guarantee on Priority Mail Express International destined for China and Hong Kong, which has been effective since Monday, Feb. 10, 2020, due to widespread airline cancellations and restrictions into this area. In addition, customers may see delays in mail and packages destined to China as well as from China. The Postal Service is undertaking all reasonable measures to minimize the impact to our customers.

Regarding the importa-

tion of packages, the CDC states there is likely very low risk that COVID-19 can be spread from products or

(Continued on page 2.)

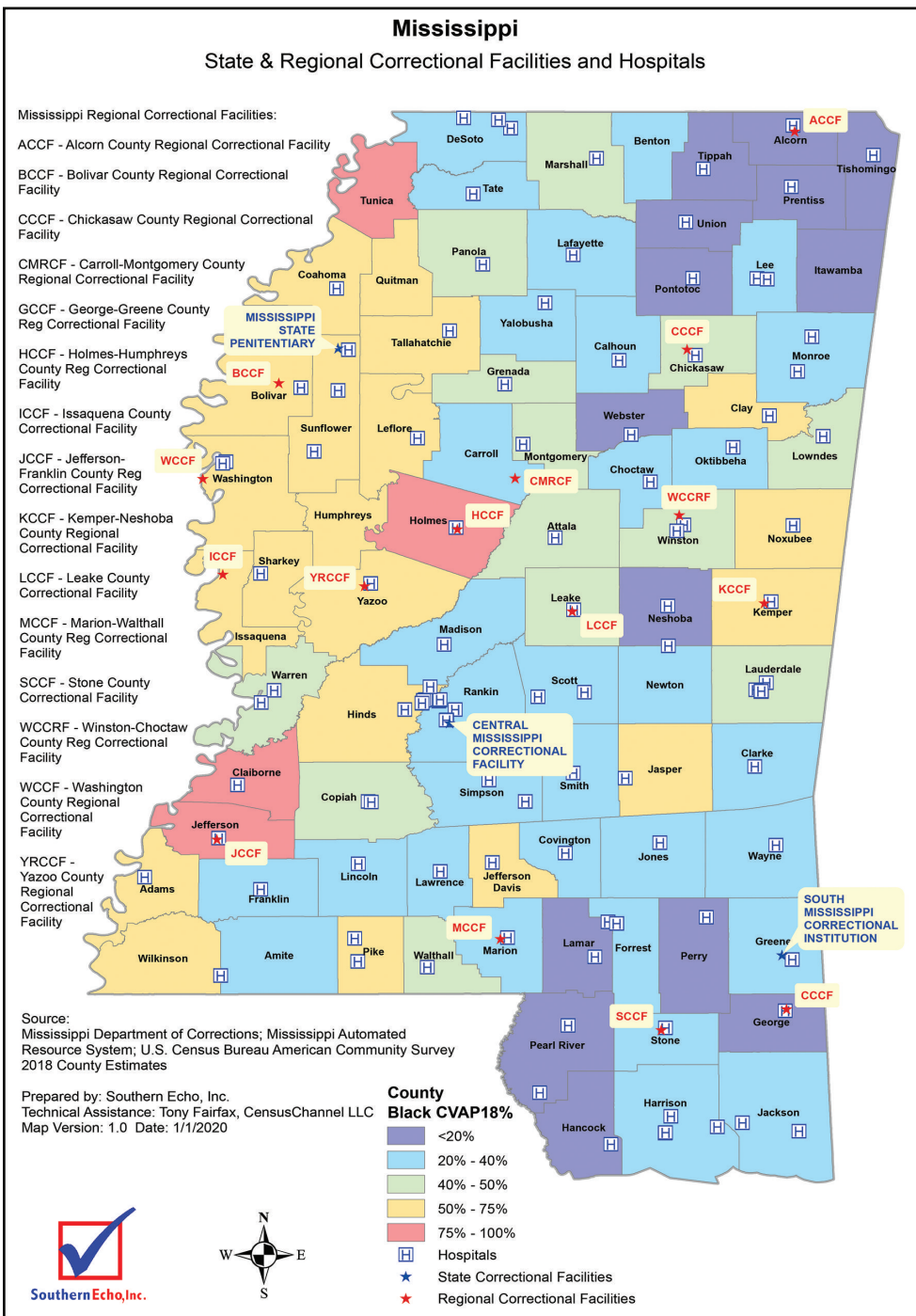
MSDH sets up coronavirus hotline

Press Release

The Mississippi State Department of Health (MSDH) has activated the Mississippi COVID-19 hotline to answer questions from the general public from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday.

For up-to-date information, call the hotline, check the MSDH website at [HealthyMS.com/COVID-19](https://www.healthymississippi.com), or download the free MS Ready app for Apple and Android. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website also has a wealth of information.

The hotline number is 1-877-978-6453.



The above graphic shows the fifteen regional jails across Mississippi who are in support of Senate Bill 2684 that will, among other measures, increase the per day funding for state inmates. In the map's key, CVAP stands for County Voting Age Percentage. The map shows locations of jails in relation to area hospitals, which proponents of the measure say is more feasible to utilize local area health care providers than the currently outsourced medical services provided to inmates. (Graphic by Southern Echo, Inc.)

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| Thursday Cloudy 78/64 Precip. Chance 20% | Friday Rain 67/57 Precip. Chance 90% | Saturday A.M. Showers 77/60 Precip. Chance 40% | Sunday Scattered T'Storms 70/58 Precip. Chance 40% | Monday Scattered T'Storms 74/63 Precip. Chance 50% | Tuesday Scattered T'Storms 78/65 Precip. Chance 40% | Wednesday Scattered T'Storms 77/64 Precip. Chance 40% |

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