

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



Serving
Holmes
County
Since
1959

HOLMES COUNTY

HERALD



THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2020

ONE SECTION

LEXINGTON, MISSISSIPPI 39095

VOLUME 62 - NUMBER 11

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

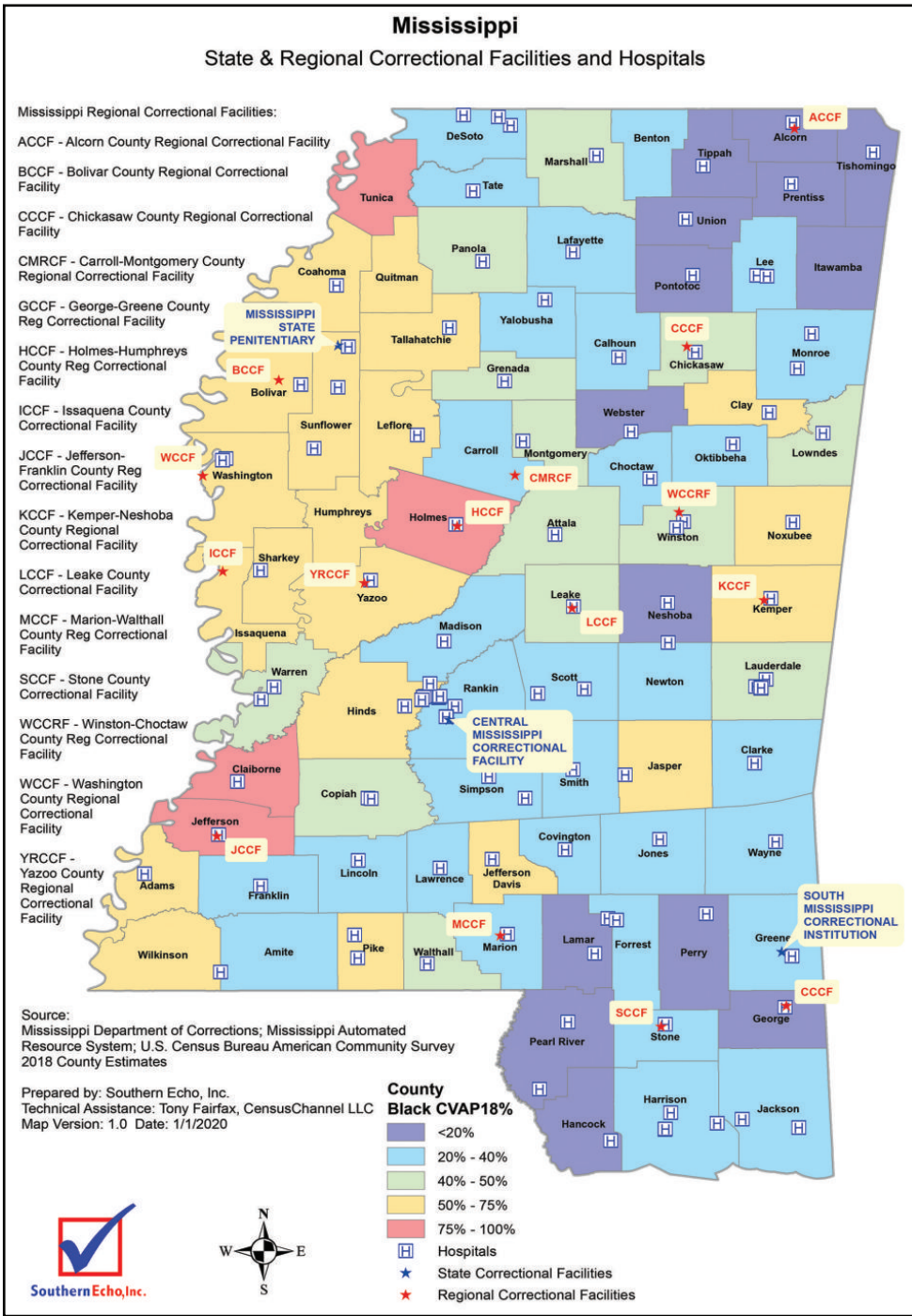
By Matthew Breazeale

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.)



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.)

The fifteen regional correctional facilities in the state supporting the legislation are Alcorn County, Bolivar County, Chickasaw County, Carroll-Montgomery County(s), George-Greene County(s), Holmes-Humphreys County(s), Issaquena County, Jefferson-Franklin County(s), Kemper-Neshoba County(s), Leake County, Marion-Walthall County(s), Stone County, Winston-Choctaw County(s), Washington County and Yazoo County.

S.B. 2684, authored by Senator Sarita Simmons (D-13), is still active during this month's regular session of the legislature.

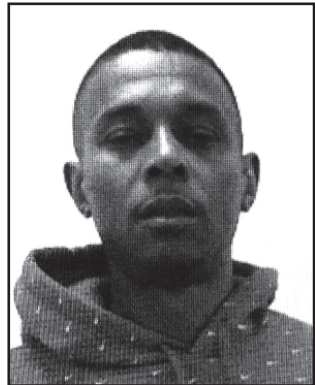
In part, the measure details that "The Department of Corrections shall contract with the board of supervisor of the following counties to house state inmates in regional facilities," the bill continues, "...Holmes County and any contiguous county in which there is located an unapproved jail;" The bill defines unapproved jail as "any jail that the local grand jury determines should be condemned or has found to be of substandard condition or in need of substantial repair or reconstruction."

March said HHRCF's contract is currently up, with MDOC wanting March to resign a contract at \$23.00 per diem, below his requested \$29.74 per diem. The measure is proposing "up to Thirty-one Dollars (\$31.00) per day for each offender that is housed in the facility."

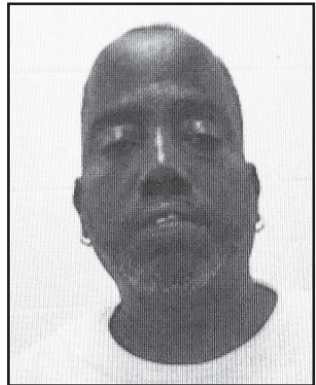
"I can't afford (\$23.00 per diem)," March added. "The (Holmes County) board of supervisors put in almost a million dollars already into this operation and now they're about to get their money back out. When they do, we're going to be broke."

If there isn't enough money to cover payroll for security personnel for the state

(Continued on page 3.)



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.

50¢ Single Copy



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%

How to reach us

PHONE • 834-1151

FAX • 834-1074

EMAIL

hcherald@gmail.com