

IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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State Escapee Captured with 2 Wanted Felons

JACKSON – State inmate Melody Diana Maher, who escaped while on a work detail in downtown Jackson nearly a week ago, is now back in custody.

Maher, 24, #189661, was captured at 1:45 p.m. Thursday at a Vicksburg apartment by officers with MDOC's Corrections Investigation Division (CID) and the U.S. Marshals Service.

Probationer Steven Heigle, 34, and parolee Jerry Brady Weed, 35, were arrested with Maher. Both were already wanted by MDOC on unrelated charges but could face additional charges in connection with Maher's escape.

Heigle, #163471, was released on probation on Feb. 19, 2016. He received a total of seven years to serve for two felony DUI convictions in Sharkey County.

Weed, #100442, was released on parole on Nov. 8, 2016. He received a total of three years for possession of a controlled substance in Sharkey County and two years for possession of amphetamine in Hinds County.

Maher also faces charges in her escape. She had been missing since May 25 when she fled from outside the Mississippi Prison Industries Corp. (MPIC) office on North State Street.

Maher has been in prison since last year for two drug convictions. She received a total of 15 years to serve for controlled substance within a facility and cocaine possession in DeSoto County.

Vicksburg Police Department, Warren County Sheriff's Department, and Sharkey County Sheriff's Department assisted MDOC.

