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SWIFT COOPERATION LEADS TO BOMB THREAT SUSPECT'S ARREST

JACKSON - Swift cooperation between the Mississippi Department of Corrections and federal agents led to the arrest of a probationer charged with making a bomb threat to a Columbus hospital on Nov. 13.

Michael Sparks, 25, of Columbus was arrested at the Greenwood Restitution Center within hours of Baptist Memorial Hospital-Golden Triangle receiving the threat shortly after 12 p.m. MDOC officials do not know why he phoned in the threat.

“MDOC is highly appreciative of the open working relationship with the FBI,” Commissioner Marshall Fisher said.

Sparks, Inmate No. 180492, was moved from restitution center to the Leflore County Jail after his arrest. He had been at the restitution center since June 24, 2015.

Sparks was convicted of burglary Dec. 7, 2012 in Lowndes County and was placed on probation for five years.

Offenders are searched when they enter and leave the restitution center.

“Once again this case shows how important it is to keep illegal cell phones out of the hands of offenders,” Fisher said. “This offender had smuggled the cell phone into the facility where he was housed. The offender admitted to making the call and the phone was found.”

Sparks has been revoked from participating in the restitution program.

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