

Secretary of state warns new businesses of ongoing "Certificate of Existence" scams

Press Release

The Mississippi Secretary of State's Office continues to receive reports from the business community regarding a company using the fictitious name, MS Certificate Service. According to customers, the company is soliciting misleading "2020 Certificate of Existence Request Forms" (see image below) to businesses, particularly new businesses, throughout Mississippi.

community of deceptive letters requesting a \$90.50 fee to order certain business documents from the Secretary of State's Office. As of today, the scammers have profited more than \$175,000 from Mississippi businesses.

The solicitation below is not sent or authorized by our office. Registered businesses in Mississippi do not have to respond or send payment to the third party, MS Certificate Service. Our office will continue to work closely with the Attorney General's Office to protect Mississippi businesses from this deceit-

ful practice.

A certificate of good standing in the state of Mississippi can be ordered online at sos.ms.gov. Online processing costs \$25 and is immediate.

Businesses may report deceptive or misleading solicitations to the Secretary of State's Office or the Attorney General's Office. The Mississippi Attorney General's Consumer Protection Hotline is 1-800-281-4418.

Misleading solicitations may:

- Require a fee.
- Cite specific Mississippi statutes.
- Contain a due date for your response.
- Appear similar to a government form.
- Contain a "Customer ID Number" that does not match a number given to you by a State or Federal Agency.
- Contain a warning to



August 13 - Julieanna Lawson, French Smith, Noah Lawson, Megan McBride, Tim Joiner, Katherine Randle, Olivia W. Anderson, Lindsey Netherland-Killebrew, Joey Netherland, Richard Chisolm, Kim Kennedy, Amy Johnson, Diane L. Scott

August 14 - Christine Brooks, Mark Langford, Jeffie Alford, Keith Bethany, Alice Hodges, Nick Rogers, Maddox Murtagh

August 15 - Jonathan Varner Barrett, Anna Holt, Hunter Box, Nathan Barrett, Kiara Boyd, Florine Rayford,

Tramaine Jones, Ainsley Dillmore, Parker Langford Ashley, Sam Thomas, **August 18** - Crystal Tate, Kaylen Killebrew Nikki Langford, Lee A.

August 16 - Debbie Unger, Tina Winters, Jake Meeks, Larry White, Laura Drennan, Jeanne Cotten Bigbee, Rob Eaton, Ann Harker, Bailey Rutledge, Marie Turner, Gina Turner Jackie Turner, Takandra Haynes, Dane Austin Teague, Betty Murphy

August 17 - Matthew **August 19** - Jordan Kelly, Willie Ann Thomas, Eldridge, Edward Friar, Anna Drennan, Kayla Dorothy Shrock, Rob Hatcher, Syed Boddu, Walker, Suzanne Ables, Shermili Boddu, Heather Hagen Davis

Rice crop looks promising as harvest approaches

Robert Nathan Gregory MSU Extension Service

Rice harvest is approaching in the Mississippi Delta, and early signs point to good yields in 2020.

Bobby Golden, rice specialist with the Mississippi State University Extension Service and an assistant professor with the Mississippi Agricultural and Forestry Experiment Station, said the condition of the state's estimated 150,000 acres of rice looks "very good" as growers prepare to fill their combines. With 221 rice-producing farms, Mississippi was No. 6 among U.S. states in rice production with a total value of \$91 million last year.

"The first fields that were planted may start draining as soon as the second week of August. Outside of some of the early rice that flowered in high heat, the majority of the state's rice crop will flower in good heat conditions," said Golden, who is based at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville. "There is some extremely good-looking rice out there,

but it's too early to tell where our yields will be."

Rain chances forecasted in the Delta through mid-August are marginal, and rainfall or high wind shouldn't affect pollination in 2020 as it did in previous years. Insect and disease problems this year have also been limited so far.

"We may escape a lot of the issues we have had in the past with paraquat drift on a portion of the crop because the soybeans are slightly behind the rice this year," Golden said. "I expect stink bugs will pick up in the next week. We have not had a blast issue this year like years past, and sheath blight has been minimal compared to normal."

lanted rice acreage -- about 2.9 million acres -- is up 30% over last year statewide and 15% over 2019 nationally. Extension row-crop economist Will Maples said this increased production will cause a stagnation in market prices.

"While domestic rice consumption is projected to remain strong in the 2020-21

marketing year, the increase in production is limiting any upward price movement, as we will see an increase of rice stocks," Maples said. "The national average farm price for long-grain rice is projected down this year at \$11.60 per hundredweight from \$12 last year."

Rice fields in Mississippi feature a mix of conventional, hybrid and nonhybrid rice varieties, about half of which are tolerant to imidazolinone herbicide. One conventional variety planted in about 15% of the state's rice fields was developed at MSU. This variety is often referred to as Rex.

September marks the 30th annual celebration of Mississippi Rice Month. Established in 1991 by the U.S. Congress, National Rice Month celebrates the nation's rice industry.

MSU Extension and Delta Rice Promotions Inc. partner each year to host an annual rice tasting luncheon in support of Mississippi Rice Month. This year's installment has been canceled due to COVID-19.



Rice variety trial plots await harvest at the Delta Research and Extension Center in Stoneville, Mississippi, Aug. 6. (Photo by MSU Extension Service/Kenner Patton)



We, the Friar family and CSLC colleagues of our dearly beloved Ms. Lula Mae Friar, extend our heart-felt appreciation to you for the love and support shown us during this difficult time. Words cannot fully express how truly grateful we are. May God bless each of you. And, may He keep you and your families safe during these pandemic times.

Love Always,
The Friar Family &
The Community Students Learning Center

SPECIAL ELECTION - HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT NOVEMBER 3, 2020 QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF DISTRICT 3 PICKENS, GOODMAN, EBENEZER & COXBURG

AUGUST 5, 2020 QUALIFYING PERIOD BEGINS FOR HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 - SPECIAL ELECTION

The first day qualifying period begins for Office of School Board is August 5. The first day August 5 - candidates may file petitions and/or qualifying statements for the Office of District 3 Holmes County Consolidated School District 3. (MS Code Annotated 37-5-9, 37-J-211J 37-7-225, 37-7-711).

SEPTEMBER 4, 2020 QUALIFYING DEADLINE, 5:00PM FOR HOLMES COUNTY CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICT 3 - SPECIAL ELECTION

The candidates qualifying deadline for the Office of School Board - District 3, Holmes County Consolidated School District. is September 4, @ 5PM. (MS Code Ann 37-5-9, 37-7-211, 37-7-225, 37-7-711).

IF QUESTIONS, PLEASE CONTACT THE CIRCUIT CLERK'S OFFICE @ Telephone:834-5028.

Submitted by, Earline Wright-Hart, Circuit Clerk