

Consumer alert: Insurance customers at risk of being scammed

News Release
JACKSON, Miss. – Commissioner of Insurance Mike Chaney is warning customers of Mississippi Farm Bureau Casualty Insurance Company (Mississippi Farm Bureau) about a potential

scam.

Some individuals and customers have recently received a fraudulent letter and check purporting to be from Mississippi Farm Bureau. The heading of the letter reads “FUNDS / CHECK MANAGEMENT INSTRUCTION” and the instructions accompanying the check advise the recipient to send an email or text to a fraudulent email address or telephone number before depositing the check at the bank.

Mississippi Farm Bureau is working to protect their customer’s security. The Company does not require preauthorization on company-issued checks. Anyone who receives a fraudulent letter or check such as the one described herein should immediately contact their local Farm Bureau insurance agent or adjuster. We also strongly recommend you notify the following:

*The Insurance Fraud Division of the Mississippi Insurance Department toll-free

We just celebrated one of the most cherished holidays in our society, Mother’s Day. This day has been celebrated since May 12, 1907, when Anne Jarvis organized groups to promote friendship and health on this date with a memorial in her mother’s home church in Grafton, West Virginia. Within five years every state in the nation was celebrating on this day and President Woodrow Wilson made it a national holiday, the second Sunday in May.

That’s only 114 years we have celebrated Mother’s Day as a

at 1-800-562-2957;

*The Insurance Integrity Enforcement Bureau of the Mississippi Attorney General’s office toll-free at 1-888-528-5780;

*The National Insurance Crime Bureau toll-free at 1-800-TEL-NICB.

Queen Bee

national holiday.

I can remember my great and great grandmothers would have been older than 114 so does that mean they were not recognized with a day? I don’t think so. They maybe didn’t have a national holiday, but I cannot help but believe that all mothers have been recognized



Peggy’s Take

has born children and, as my grandmother has told me, went right back to all her duties and obligations the next day. We have always been a strong lot, have we not?

Mothers, I have read were made by God because he could not always be there, and he needed the very next best thing. Mothers are drivers, coaches, doctors, lawyers, chefs, negotiators, referees, builders of forts, soft laps, even softer hugs and squeezes. We fill the needs of our children no matter what. And have you ever seen or perhaps been one of the “grizzly bear” mothers? The mother that goes into defense – fight mode when their offspring is threatened? Then we turn into a big fighting machine. We can go from loving to combat mode in a split second. We wear many hats and can change that hat when the need arises. We are resilient, durable, spirited, feisty, quick to recover and pliable.

Mothers are the matriarch of our families. Daddies are the worker bees; we are the queen bees the workers provide for and protect. My Mother’s Day was different this year as I am still wheelchair bound but all my little worker bees prepared Mother’s Day Dinner for me and we celebrated this Queen Bee in style.

We had some delicious baked beans made by one of my Daughters in Love. Here is my “add ons” to a simple can of baked beans.

6 slices of cooked diced bacon, 1 finely chopped onion, 2 (28 oz) baked beans, ½ cup ketchup, 3 T. brown sugar, 2 T. spicy brown mustard, 3 T. molasses, 2 t. worcheshire sauce Stir all into beans and mix really well. I cook mine in cast iron skillet for 1 hour at 350*

Peggy Sims is a life-long resident of Attala County and columnist.



Congressman Bennie Thompson urges hardworking families to file taxes before May 17 to get their advance child tax credit payments

News Release

50,000 Households in MS 2nd District Could Get Up to \$300 Per Child Every Month Beginning this Summer as Part of the American Rescue Plan Congressman Bennie Thompson Helped Pass, But Families Should File Taxes before May 17th to Get Their Payments as Soon as Possible

(Bolton, Mississippi) – Congressman Bennie G. Thompson is urging hardworking families in Mississippi’s Second Congressional District to file their taxes before the upcoming May 17th deadline to ensure they receive the accurate amount in new advance monthly Child Tax Credit payments they are entitled to as soon as possible.

As part of the American Rescue Plan Congressman Thompson helped pass, families could get monthly payments of up to \$300 per child beginning as soon as July. Congressman Thompson says the best way to ensure eligible families receive their payments is to file a 2020 tax return – even if they don’t have earnings to report or don’t normally file – because the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) needs information from tax returns in order to calculate and issue advance monthly payments.

“Families can get free help preparing and filing their taxes at vital sites (locations found here.)

•168,400 children in Mississippi Second Congressional District could benefit from the advance monthly payments. That’s 94.7% of all children in the 2nd Congressional District.

•50,000 households in the 2nd CD could get an average total benefit of \$3,500.

“Advance monthly payments of the Child Tax Credit will help set America’s children up for success and put more money in the pockets of hardworking parents sooner, to pay for childcare or put gas in the car so they can go to work and help fuel our economy while building better lives for their families,” said Congressman Thompson. “The best way to make sure you and your family get the correct amount as soon as possible is to file a 2020 tax return, before May 17th – even if you don’t normally file.”

How Much are the Child Tax Credit Advance Monthly Payments?

The American Rescue Plan expanded the Child Tax Credit to up to \$3,600 per child for children ages 0 to 5 and \$3,000 per child for children ages 6 to 17.

The American Rescue Plan also authorized advance monthly payments of the Child Tax Credit through December 2021. Beginning as soon as July and running through December, qualifying families can get up to:

•\$300 a month per child for children ages 0 to 5.

•\$250 a month per child for children ages 6 to 17.

Families will get their remaining expanded Child Tax Credit when they file their 2021 tax return.

Who Qualifies for the Child Tax Credit Advance Monthly Payments?

•Families will qualify for a full credit if their income is below \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,000 for people filing as head of household, or \$150,000 for people who are married and filing jointly.

•To be eligible, children must:

•Have a Social Security number,

•Live with you for at least half of the year,

•Be under age 18 as of December 31, 2021, and

•Be claimed on your tax return.

•Children are eligible if they are your children, adopted children, stepchildren, half-siblings, foster children, grandchildren, nieces or nephews, or certain other relatives. The adult filing taxes must have a Social Security Number or an Individual Taxpayer Identification Number.

How Can Families Get Help Preparing and Filing their Taxes for Free?

Free tax preparation services are generally available until the tax filing deadline. Families should file their taxes before the May 17th deadline even if they do not have earnings to report or do not normally file, because the IRS needs information from tax returns in order to calculate and issue advance monthly payments.

•Families can file taxes for free online through the IRS Free File program at <https://apps.irs.gov/app/freeFile/>.

•Families where the parent or caregiver is aged 50 or older can use this AARP tool to find free tax help near them at <https://secure.aarp.org/applications/VMISLocator/searchTaxAideLocations.action>.



2021 Scholarship Awards were presented to Holmes County Central High School seniors by Holmes County Bank President Robert Killebrew. Pictured (left to right) are: Kaitlin Kimbrough, Salutatorian, Killebrew, Davian Powell, Salutatorian and Zamiah Brownlow, Valedictorian.

Our congratulations to Zamiah Brownlow, Kaitlin Kimbrough and Davian Powell, winners of the 2021 Holmes County Bank Scholarships awarded at Holmes County Central High School.

It is a pleasure to help recognize students who make such achievements in academic work.



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