

MARCH 2025

Tax Scams and Fraud P.1

Tax Scams continued.. P.2

Calendar/Recipe P.3

RECOGNIZE TAX SCAMS AND FRAUD

Tax scam warning signs

Scammers mislead you about tax refunds, credits and payments. They pressure you for personal, financial or employment information or money. IRS impersonators try to look like us.

Watch out for:

- **A big payday** - If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Bad tax advice on social media may convince you to lie on tax forms or mislead you about credits you can claim.
- **Demands or threats** - Impersonators want you to pay "now or else." They threaten arrest or deportation. They don't let you question or appeal the amount of tax you owe.
- **Website links** - Odd or misspelled web links can take you to harmful sites instead of IRS.gov.

Common tax scams

Charity impersonators

Your donation or website link doesn't go where you think it will.

You can't deduct donations to fake charities.

- Search for a tax-exempt organization in your area
- IRS: Beware of fake charities; check before donating
- IRS joins effort to fight charity fraud during international recognition week
- How to avoid fraud and scams after a disaster

Credits and refunds misinformation

Incorrect information on how to get a bigger refund misleads you to claim credits you're not eligible for. This leads to a delayed refund, audit or other consequences like fines or imprisonment.

Dishonest or uninformed tax preparers misrepresent rules for claiming credits. Aggressive advertising, mail and online sources mislead you to file an incorrect return. They charge large, upfront fees or a fee based on your refund amount.

Seniors targeted

Scammers target people over age 65 or nearing retirement for personal or financial information or money. Often, once you give them money, they ask for more. When scammers trick you to withdraw from your retirement account, it could affect your taxes.

Social media bad tax advice and scams

Bad tax advice on social media can mislead you about your credit or refund eligibility. Influencers may convince you to lie on tax forms or suggest the IRS is keeping a tax credit secret from you. Social media posts may put you in touch with scammers.

W-2 Form fraud

Incorrect information on how to get a bigger refund misleads you to report fake income, federal income tax withholding and employers on Form W-2, Wage and Tax Statement.

Criminals also target businesses and payroll companies by email to steal Form W-2 data. They file fraudulent returns in other people's names for refunds.

If your Social Security number (SSN) or individual tax identification number (ITIN) was stolen, immediately report it to IdentityTheft.gov.



"No, I'm pretty sure it's do unto others as you would have others to do unto you."



Chocolate Pecan Caramels

Ingredients

- 1 tablespoon plus 1 cup butter, softened, divided
- 1-1/2 cups coarsely chopped pecans, toasted
- 1 cup semisweet chocolate chips
- 2 cups packed brown sugar
- 1 cup light corn syrup
- 1/4 cup water
- 1 can (14 ounces) sweetened condensed milk
- 2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Directions

1. Line a 13x9-in. pan with foil; butter the foil with 1 tablespoon butter. Sprinkle with pecans and chocolate chips; set aside.
2. In a heavy saucepan, melt remaining butter over medium heat. Add the brown sugar, corn syrup and water. Cook and stir until mixture comes to a boil. Stir in milk. Cook, stirring constantly, until a candy thermometer reads 248° (firm-ball stage).
3. Remove from heat and add vanilla. Pour into prepared pan (do not scrape saucepan). Cool completely before cutting.

Nutrition Facts

2 each: 190 calories, 10g fat (5g saturated fat), 16mg cholesterol, 76mg sodium, 26g carbohydrate (23g sugars, 1g fiber), 1g protein.

Prep: 20 min. Cook: 15 min. + cooling

<https://www.tasteofhome.com/recipes/chocolate-pecan-caramels/>

MARCH 2025

MAR 2

Nat'l Old Stuff Day

MAR 4

Toy Soldier Day

MAR 9

National False Teeth Day

MAR 12

National Plant A Flower Day



MAR 15

National Corn Dog Day

MAR 18

Global Recycling Day

MAR 19

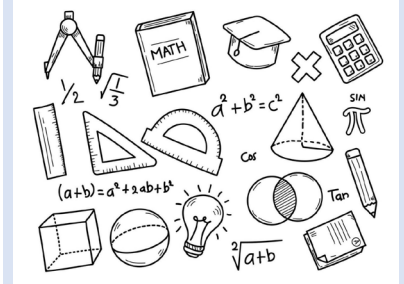
Nat'l Chocolate Caramel Day

MAR 21

Nat'l Crunchy Taco Day

MAR 23

World Math Day



MAR 24

National Cocktail Day

MAR 27

World Theater Day

MAR 29

Nat'l Vietnam Veteran's Day

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FORMS OF
PAYMENT NOW
ACCEPTED:

- VISA
- MASTERCARD
- AMERICAN EXPRESS
- DISCOVER CARD
- ZELLE
- CASH
- PERSONAL CHECK

D W T D B S N D N P L U T O M N V A S
T E A R T G O E M L O E P I O V G M E
P N C Y A J P L X M A M S V G N I H O
E O S H R T X I A J H I A U F O E L D
L W V S U E X N X R N R T W N Q H S R
B U K N W C T A C R S O A S Z A R H A
W S E I N D O I V O G Y O A E A R U E
C L U S T E R N L A M N S M M L Y U Y
K N Y S T C A K S L D E E T D T E Q T
D M Z X T L D A E T E M T R E V R C H
U T E N A L P L I T E T G B A M A S G
L T N R Z L O D A E O L A U R Q S W I
R Y I H C H A Y S K U V L S T P A S L
U I T L K U T G T C Y D Q A H K U F Y
U R H C F I R V E O G E A Q T T Q T A
D Q A V V Q U Y R R Y B L C B I I P W
I L S A D P N H O O Z F O O U B O Y Y
B B R N J P W Q I V Y U L G R R M N K
A G V V X B S E D G S I E O I T S C L
Y M E T E O R Y W R D K R G S O U J I
M O S G N I R O A E N P O A B E N R M
Z W N L F K J U P I T E R S T N E P C
U W K X S P A C E S H I P U L S V D F

ASTEROID
BLACKHOLE
BOLIDE
CELESTIAL
CLUSTER
COMET
CONSTELLATION
EARTH
GALAXY
GRAVITY
JUPITER
LIGHTYEAR
MARS
MERCURY
METEOR
MILKYWAY
MOON
NEPTUNE
NOVA
ORBIT
PLANET
PLUTO
QUASAR
RINGS
ROCKET
SATELLITE
SPACESHIP
SOLARSYSTEM
STAR
SYZYG
URANUS
VENUS
ZENITH

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