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IRS TAX TIPS

Scams Targeting Taxpayers

As part of continuing efforts to protect the senior community, the Internal Revenue Service today issued a warning about the rising threat of impersonation scams.

These scams are targeting older adults by pretending to be government officials, aiming to steal sensitive personal information and money. By posing as representatives from agencies such as the IRS, or other government agencies, these fraudsters use fear and deceit to exploit their victims.

"Scammers often target seniors, attempting to steal personal information through phone calls, emails or text messages by pretending to be from the IRS or other agencies or businesses," said IRS Commissioner Danny Werfel.

"Preventing these types of scams requires assistance from many different places. By partnering with other federal agencies and others in the tax community, we can reach more seniors and other taxpayers to help protect them against these terrible scams."

If an individual receives an unexpected call from someone alleging to be from the IRS, but they have not been notified by mail about any issues with their IRS account, they should hang up immediately. The call is likely from a scammer.

Do not return the call using the number provided by the caller or the one displayed on their caller ID. If taxpayers are uncertain about the legitimacy of IRS communications, they can contact IRS customer service for verification at 800-829-1040, or for the hearing impaired, TTY/TDD 800-829-4059.

Phishing (as in "fishing for information") is a scam where fraudsters send e-mail messages to trick unsuspecting victims into revealing personal and financial information that can be used to steal the victims' identity.

The IRS has issued several alerts about the fraudulent use of the IRS name or logo by scammers trying to gain access to consumers' financial information to steal their identity and assets.

Corporate returns with extensions are due September 15th.

Personal returns with extensions are due October 15th.

Scam emails are designed to trick taxpayers into thinking these are official communications from the IRS or others in the tax industry, including tax software companies. These phishing schemes may seek information related to refunds, filing status, confirming personal information, ordering transcripts and verifying PIN information.

Be alert to bogus emails that appear to come from your tax professional, requesting information for an IRS form. IRS doesn't require Life Insurance and Annuity updates from taxpayers or a tax professional.

Variations can be seen via text messages. The IRS is aware of email phishing scams that include links to bogus web sites intended to mirror the official IRS website. These emails contain the direction "you are to update your IRS e-file immediately." These emails are not from the IRS.

The sites may ask for information used to file false tax returns or they may carry malware, which can infect computers and allow criminals to access your files or track your keystrokes to gain information.

Unsolicited email claiming to be from the IRS, or from a related component such as EFTPS, should be reported to the IRS at phishing@irs.gov.

AUGUST FUN FACTS

August 16th is National Rum Day in the US.

World Mosquito Day is on August 20.

August 5 is National Underwear Day in the US.

Ronald Reagan named August the official National Peach Month.

Rock music legend, Elvis Presley passed away in August.

Barack Obama was born in August.





Peach Scones

Ingredients

- 2 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 Tablespoons sugar plus more for sprinkling on top, optional
- 1 Tablespoon baking powder
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 5 Tablespoons unsalted butter unsalted, very cold, cut into ½ inch slices
- 2 cups fresh peaches peeled, pitted, and chopped into 1/2 inch pieces (approximately 3 peaches)
- 1 cup heavy cream

Instructions

1. Preheat oven to 450°F (232°C) with the rack on the middle shelf.
2. Add the flour, sugar, baking powder, cinnamon, and salt to a food processor. Pulse a few times to mix.
3. Scatter the cold butter across the flour. Pulse until it resembles cornmeal or wet sand, approximately 10-12 pulses.
4. Pour out the flour mixture into a bowl. Add the chopped peaches and heavy cream. Mix until just barely incorporated. Do not overmix (a little dry mixture is okay and preferred to overmixing).
5. Dump the dough out onto a lightly floured surface. Gently and briefly knead or press to incorporate the dough and press into a 1½-2 inch slab. Kneading should be just 30-45 seconds and the dough will be sticky.
6. Flour a round cookie cutter and cut out scones by pressing straight down (do not twist). Repeat with remaining dough, very gently pressing back together. (Re-pressed dough will likely result in scones slightly more dense or flat due to the extra handling).
7. Place the scones on a lined baking sheet. If desired, sprinkle with additional sugar for texture and color.
8. Chill the scones in the refrigerator for 30 minutes. This is not mandatory, but will help the scones rise and be light.
9. Bake for 13-15 minutes until lightly golden brown. Rotate the baking sheet halfway through baking. Cool on a wire rack for at least 10 minutes. Store in a sealed container for up to 5 days.

Serves: 12 scones Calories: 209 Total Time: 55 minutes

<https://www.threeolivesbranch.com/peach-scones>

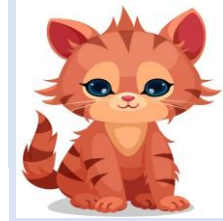
AUGUST 2024

Aug 3

National Mustard Day

Aug 8

International Cat Day



Aug 12

National Middle Child Day

Aug 17

National #2 Pencil Day

Aug 18

National Fajita Day

Aug 21

National Senior Citizen's Day

Aug 22

Eat a Peach Day

Aug 24

National Peach Pie Day

Aug 28

National Bow Tie Day



Aug 31

International Bacon Day

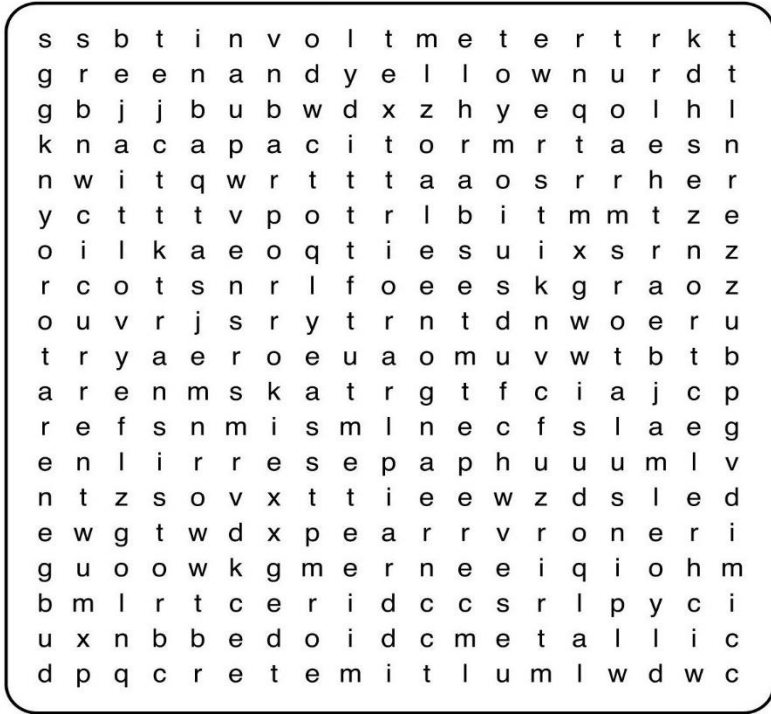
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- PERSONAL CHECK

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