



Neighborhood Watch Newsletter Presidents' Day Edition

"PRESIDENTS' DAY" - THE HOLIDAY THAT ALMOST WASN'T

President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the Uniform Holiday Bill that created 3 national holidays in 1968: Washington's Birthday, observed on the 3rd Monday in February; Memorial Day, on the last Monday in May, and Veterans Day observed on the 4th Monday in October. Despite the new legislation, until 1971, both Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12th) and George Washington's birthday (February 22nd) were celebrated as individual holidays.



President Richard Nixon signed an executive order stating that all presidents' birthdays should be celebrated on the holiday of "Washington's Birthday" in February. However, the term "Presidents Day" was the initiative of businesses for marketing advertisements for "money saved" or "discounts" on items throughout stores, car lots or other business venues in order to attract a larger consumer base.

Presidents' Day is a floating holiday that always falls on the third Monday of each February. (Source:presidency.ucsb.edu/ws/index.php?)

IT'S TAX & IRS SCAM SEASON ONCE AGAIN

It's tax season, which means your stress level could be higher than normal. Keeping up with changes to the U.S. tax code could add to your stress.

Unfortunately, these changes aren't the only things that we need to worry about. This time of year also brings out an abundance of scammers.

Seniors especially need to be wary of tax scams. The National Council on Aging said that

those 65 and older are at the most risk of falling victim to a financial scam. One reason for this is seniors typically have more expendable money than other age groups.

Even though seniors are targeted at a higher rate, everyone needs to be on the lookout for tax scams.

The most common tax scam for years has been conducted over the telephone. A victim will receive a call from someone claiming to be with the IRS. The fake IRS agent acts very aggressive and tells the victim they owe past taxes and fees that are due immediately.

Many times the victim is told an arrest warrant is going to be issued if they don't pay ASAP. They are told to send money via wire transfer or prepaid debit card.

The IRS has compiled a list of things to watch out for that will tip off the call is a scam. Here are five things the IRS will never do:

- Call to demand immediate payment, nor will they call about taxes owed without first having mailed you a bill.
- Demand that you pay taxes without giving you the opportunity to question or appeal the amount they say you owe.

- Require you to use a specific payment method for your taxes, such as a prepaid debit card.
- Threaten to bring in local police or other law-enforcement groups to have you arrested for not paying.

If you receive a call claiming to be from the IRS and hear any of the things on this list, here's what you need to do:

- If you know you owe taxes or think you might owe, call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040. IRS workers can help you with a payment issue.
- If you know you don't owe taxes or have no reason to believe that you do, report the incident to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration at 1-800-366-4484 or at www.tigta.gov.
- You can file a complaint using the FTC Complaint Assistant: choose "Other" and then "Impostor Scams." If the complaint involves someone impersonating the IRS, include the words "IRS Telephone Scam" in the notes.

Also, the IRS does not use unsolicited email, text messages or any social media to discuss your personal tax issue. For more information on reporting tax scams, go to www.irs.gov and type "scam" in the search box.

If suspect someone stole your identity and used your SSN for employment purposes or could use your SSN to file a tax return	Use Form 14039* *Spanish version: Form 14039	Complete the form online, print it and mail or fax to the appropriate office using the options listed on page 2 of the form. Include photocopies of at least one of the documents listed on the form to verify your identity. For additional information, refer to the Taxpayer Guide to Identity Theft
...suspect fraudulent activity or an abusive tax scheme by a tax return preparer or tax preparation company	Use Form 14157** **Form 14157-A (see below) may also be required	You may complete the form online, print it and mail it to the IRS address on the form.
...suspect a tax return preparer filed a return or altered your return without your consent and you are seeking a change to your account	Use Form 14157 AND Form 14157-A	Send BOTH forms (Form 14157 and Form 14157-A) to the address shown in the Instructions for Form 14157-A.
...suspect an abusive tax promotion or promoter	Use Form 14242	The form can be mailed or faxed to the IRS address or fax number on the form.
...suspect misconduct or wrongdoing by an exempt organization or employee plan	Use Form 13909	Mail it to the address provided on the form.



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FLU EPIDEMIC IN TEXAS CLOSSES SOME SCHOOLS



1. A good night's sleep promotes good health and immunities.
2. Don't waste your money on homeopathic remedies; they don't work.
3. Wash your hands often with soap and water to kill germs. Or, use hand sanitizer as an alternative.
4. Use hydrogen peroxide, chlorine and detergents to keep things clean and freshly washed to kill the virus.
5. Drink plenty of water, both when you're healthy and when you're sick.
6. Avoid touching your eyes, mouth and nose. Germs are often spread via contact with these areas.
7. If you or a family member has a fever, stay home for at least 24 hours after the fever is gone!
8. The virus is spread through droplets from coughing and sneezing so avoid close contact with sick people.
9. Keep surfaces like doorknobs, keyboards and phones that harbor flu germs for 2 to 8 hours, clean.
10. Cover your nose and mouth with a tissue when you sneeze or cough, and make sure you throw your used tissues in the trash.

Several schools near San Antonio were closed last week due to the flu, a season which extends from September or October to May. At least nine schools across Texas have closed for one or more days due to outbreaks of the flu so far this month.

Hunt Independent School District in Kerr County closed for 10 days after more than 50 students were affected by the flu epidemic.

More than 40 students were absent and several others, who later presented flu symptoms forced schools in Medina ISD, Bandera County, to close Friday the 10th and Monday the 13th.

A flu outbreak affecting more than 50 students and staff prompted the closure Tuesday of the Hunt Independent School District's lone campus in western Kerr County, with plans to reopen Thursday after a top-to-bottom cleaning of the school.

The last kid was picked up about 11 a.m. High fever, vomiting and flu symptoms were seen in those taken ill, most of whom were diagnosed with the Type B flu strain; another student was diagnosed as being infected with both Type A and Type B strains.

The Hunt School will reopen on Thursday, but urged parents not to send back their kids until they are fever-free for at least 48 hours.

"If they have the flu, they shouldn't be back until Monday," said Dockery who, after taking Friday and Monday off, was feeling healthy on Tuesday. (Source: zeke@express-news.net)

This year flu-related hospitalizations are significantly higher in Bell County. There have been 242 flu-like illnesses with more than 30 admitted for flu-related cases in the past three weeks. Most of these patients failed to get vaccinated. One victim, a man from Coryell County, has died and another was put on life-support after suffering from the flu. Since September, 161 people have tested positive for "Flu-A" and twenty are "H1N1" positive.

Greater incidents of respiratory (RV, respiratory virus) outbreaks have helped create a peak flu season as well as influenza.

Prevention by washing your hands regularly and taking care not to over use sanitizers that often kill "good bacteria" are helpful, however, getting your flu vaccination is still the best advice. (Source: kbmadshaw@express-news.net, KXXV.Com, <http://www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/>)

BELL COUNTY MOST WANTED AS OF: FEBRUARY 15, 2017



Monica Peoples is a 45 y/o, Black Female, Wanted For: Bail Jumping and Failure to Appear, is this issue's featured fugitive.

Peoples weighs 160 lbs, stands 5'3" tall, and has Brown Eyes and Brown Hair. She may use the alias of Monique Yvette Flowers and was last known to have lived in Killeen.

FROM AUSTIN – \$5,000 Reward is being offered for information leading the arrest of: Gilbert Garza, 33.



Details: 5'9", 230 lbs,
Gangs: Hermandad de Pistoleros Latinos
Wanted For: Obstruction/Retaliation (three counts).
LKA: Bloomington, TX, Victoria County
CCH: Aggravated Assault with Deadly Weapon, Burglary or Habitation, Harassment of a Public Servant.

Garza has ties to both the Jackson County and Victoria County areas.

Garza should be considered armed and dangerous, and law enforcement authorities should use extreme caution if they encounter Garza.

For more information or updates in the event of his arrest, see his wanted bulletin at: www.dps.texas.gov/Texas10MostWanted/SexOffenderDetails.aspx?id=338. All tips are guaranteed to be anonymous.