

TRTA's Information and Protective Services' "Quick Blips" November 1, 2016

SCAMS GALORE!

FROM NANCY BYLER'S FRIEND:

"Publishers Clearing House" sounds legitimate when they telephone, until they ask you for money. Some calls are coming from Jamaica and can increase your personal telephone bill. Publishers Clearing House does not make calls.

From "Internet Scambuster" Sept. Newsletter

submitted by Ron Gawryszewski

Scammers are posing at Amazon job recruiters offering to set up websites to enable you to sell Amazon products from your home. You will not need to stock the products, just act as a clearing house. It will initially cost you \$395, payable with your credit card, of course. Then you will later discover that other maintenance charges occur on your credit card bill and then charges for all kinds of products you did not order or receive. Clue: Neither Amazon nor any other business solicits this type of business via random phone calls. And, they do not set up websites.



Vote on November 8, 2016

Activate your telephone trees and remind TRTA members to vote.

Though TRTA makes no endorsements, you can get educated about education friendly candidates at the following websites:

Teach the Vote

Texas Educators Vote

Texas Parent PAC

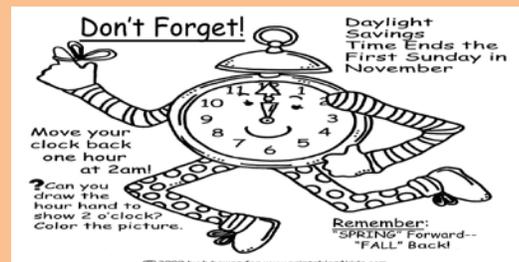
Texas League of Women Voters

Texas Tribune

Association of Texas Professional Educators



TRTF: TRTA's Foundation needs just \$30 from each member: helping needy members and new teachers. Will you be a part of the solution to help others?



On November 6, when you change your clocks back one hour, don't forget to change your batteries—to the smoke alarms, smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, smart thermostats, and flashlights. Visit <energizer.com/homesafety>



LAW& THE HIPPOCRATIC OATH

The District of Columbia city lawmakers just passed a law (11/3/2016) whereby residents with six months to live will be able to request lethal medication from their doctors. The “right to die” bill passed by 11-2. [Amarillo Globe-News. 11/3/16. p. 2.]

WORD FOR THE DAY: GALIMATIAS

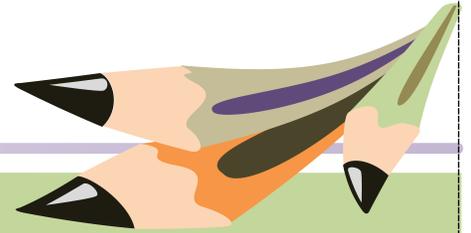
[gal-uh-MEY-shee-uhs]: confused or unintelligible talk, gibberish, nonsense

November is National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Week. There is no current cure for the disease, but you can keep your brain engaged by (1) regular physical exercise (2) involvement in community functions, like your local TRTA unit (3) take new classes: quilting or even at the local junior college (4) eat lots of fresh fruits and vegetables (5) play games on your cell phones or the newspaper’s crossword puzzles (6) stop smoking (7) get enough sleep (7) read at least one book each month: May I recommend Sarah Lovett’s psycho-thriller *Dante’s Inferno*. If you like psychology, literature, mystery, codes, and thrillers, it will keep you awake because you cannot put it down. (8) Look up the words you don’t know, like galimatias, a good synonym for flummoxed.

[Fr. 1645-55, first attested in Montaigne *jargon de galimathias*]

Myth or Fact: It is now determined that cranberry juice has no effect on urinary tract infections.

Flu Vaccine: Now is the time to get the vaccine that will prevent or lesson your flu symptoms. People spend more time indoors, where diseases are readily spread. Wash your hands frequently. The flu virus mutates yearly; thus the vaccine is changed yearly. People with allergies to egg products should NOT receive the NASAL SPRAY vaccine. [Borger N-H, 10/26.]



Virtual Robbery

Virtual Kidnapping: It’s new and improved. Callers have what sounds like your grandchild crying and begging for help. You are instructed not to hang up the telephone, drive to your bank, withdraw \$10,000 and then follow instructions. Scammers are tracking you on Google Maps. They steer you to the nearest Western Union, where you are instructed to wire the money to a bank account in Mexico. The scammers are skilled at creating anxiety. They gain much information from social media. Demand that they let you speak to your loved one and ask a question that only she or he will know the answer to.

[Nightly News with Lester Holt, 11/3/2016]

Suggestions for Christmas gifts for the Elderly in Nursing Homes.

It seems strange, but remote control cars are great gifts. It keeps the wheelchair bound engaged with each other. It is better than staring at a TV all day. Also donate bottles of shampoo, body wash, and toothpaste.

Texas has the third largest population of people over 60, and a significant number of them are Hispanic, who account for only 16% of the Medicaid enrollees.

