



BIG SKY FEDERAL CREDIT UNION NEWS

June 30, 2010



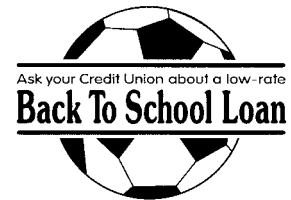
Credit Union Financing Puts You In The Driver's Seat

If it's time for new wheels, cruise on over to the credit union for your financing. When you get a pre-approved loan, you're in the driver's seat. You can shop new and used car dealers and peruse the classified ads and online listings to find the vehicle you are looking for. You won't have to settle for the make or model that someone wants to sell you; you can buy the car that suits your needs exactly. With great rates and flexible terms, we have a vehicle loan that works for you and your budget. At the credit union, we always have your best interest in mind. Remember, here, you're a member/owner, not just a customer. So on the road to your next vehicle, make the credit union your first stop.

Payday Loans: Quick Way To Get Deeper In Debt

Taking out a payday loan is like laying down on a comfortable bed: easy to get into, a little harder to get out of. Payday lenders specialize in fast, friendly service. You write out a check for the amount you need, plus the lender's finance charge or fee, and sign papers agreeing to pay it back in a short time, typically two weeks. When the time is up, the payday lender cashes your check to pay back the loan and collect its fee. But you will pay dearly for the convenience. If you pay a standard fee of \$15 per \$100 borrowed, on a two-week loan you are paying a 391 annual percentage rate! Another drawback is that if you haven't solved the money problem that put you at the payday lender's door the first time, you'll likely need to rollover the agreement, paying additional fees and sinking you deeper into debt.

If you find yourself short of cash, visit the credit union. We'll work with you to help you find a better way to borrow.



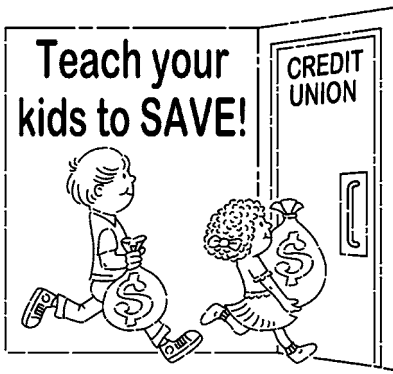
Smart Math: A Back to School Loan from the Credit Union

For many kids, gearing up for back to school is not nearly as fun as getting gifts for the holidays. But for many parents, it's almost as costly, especially if they buy all those clothes, backpacks, and supplies with a high-interest-rate credit card. That's why a personal loan from the credit union for back to school expenses is a smart choice. With a back to school loan, purchases can be made in cash, making it easier to stick to an established budget, a key to keeping costs under control. And by getting the kids involved in putting it together, important lessons about needs versus wants, comparison shopping and how to spot a good deal can be learned.

The first bell will ring before you know it. Contact the credit union to find out more about a back to school loan.



Your credit union is sponsoring the Rubber Duck Regatta coming up on Sunday, September 12 from Noon to 4:00 at Riverfront Park. Flocks of rubber ducks are ready to race for exciting prizes. Get in on the action by adopting a flock or more of ducks - if your duck wins a race, you win a prize. Adopt a duck for \$5.00 or a Quack Pack of 6 for \$25. There will be carnival games, entertainment, food, and more! Admission is free and all proceeds go to benefit the Prevention of Elder Abuse Program.



Getting Your Children Into The Savings Mode

Does it seem as though your children think money grows on trees? Help them understand what it takes to successfully manage money and save for the future with these steps:

1. Bring them to the credit union to open their very own share savings accounts. You can get them started with initial deposits, but encourage that subsequent deposits be their own funds.
2. If you provide an allowance, attach strings to it by requiring some percentage of it be saved. You can use the equivalent of payroll deduction: each week, tuck away a portion of the allowance somewhere safe. At some regular interval, have your children deposit the funds into their share savings account at the credit union.
3. Match savings. Whenever your children receive money as gifts or for doing extra tasks, match all or a percentage of what they decide to set aside in savings.
4. Help your children save for specific goals. For example, if your children want video games, have them cut out pictures from ads and glue them on a box or envelope. Help them calculate how much and how long they will need to save to purchase the item and urge them to put money in the box regularly in order to meet their goals.
5. Save thyself. Children model parents' behavior. Talk to them about why and how you save regularly.

Keep yourself protected from Identity Theft!



Preventing ID Theft

You can help protect yourself from identity theft by following these tips:

- * Never, never provide personal or financial information if you did not initiate the contact - this includes the phone, Internet, or someone at your door.
- * If you receive an e-mail or pop-up message requesting personal or financial information, do not reply. And, don't click on the link in the message, either.
- * Protect your password(s) the same way - never provide it over the phone or over the Internet unless you initiated the contact.
- * Use anti-virus software and/or firewalls on every computer you own. Keep your anti-virus software up-to-date.
- * Always review credit card and bank account statements as soon as you receive them to check for unauthorized charges.
- * Do not reply to any e-mail asking to verify your personal data. You will find that legitimate vendors and merchants do not send such requests via e-mail. This includes your credit union.
- * Don't e-mail personal or financial information. E-mail is not a secure method of transmitting personal or financial information. If you initiate a transaction and want to provide your information through an organization's Web site, look for a lock icon on the browser's status bar or a URL that begins "https:" (the "s" stands for "secure").
- * Remember, identity theft does not solely take place online. Protect your snail mail also by placing outgoing

mail in post office collection boxes or at your local post office. Try to remove incoming mail from your mailbox as soon as you receive it.

Pay Yourself First With Payroll Deduction

Even if you have the best intentions, it's hard to save. Temptations to spend are everywhere: ads on radio and television, online, on billboards, even special offers on the back of your cereal box. So it's not surprising that many of us look into an empty wallet at the end of the month, with nothing left to tuck away into savings. There is a solution. And it's surprisingly easy: Pay yourself first with payroll deduction. Instead of hoping there will be something left over at the end of the month to save, take it off the top. Even if it hurts at first, before long you won't notice. That's because what you don't see, you don't miss. Before you know it, you'll be well on your way to building a safety net for emergencies or stashing cash for your vacation. It's easy to sign up. Call the credit union and we'll explain how.

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

LABOR DAY

Monday, September 6, 2010

Monday, September 6, 2010
Labor Day

Big Sky Federal Credit Union
990 Grand Ave. • Billings, MT 59102
bigskyfcu.com
(406) 252-2527 • (406) 259-9425 Fax

Member Since 1954
FDIC
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\$250,000

Monday-Friday
9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Member Since 1954
FDIC
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