



BEST RATES, AWESOME PAYMENTS!



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SERVING MEMBERS SINCE 1935



President's Message

As we start this new year, I want to encourage you to remember that your Credit Union, Rails West Federal Credit Union, is here to help you navigate through the financially changing times that we see in our country today.

Since 1935, our Credit Union, Idaho's oldest Credit Union, has been unlocking dreams for members and helping them achieve financial strength and stability. Working together and building long lasting relationships with the people of East Idaho.

In doing so, our goal is to offer safety for your deposits, combined with maintaining the area's lowest loan rates period. On our lending team you'll find Loan Designers, not Loan Officers, because our team is here to listen and then customize your loan to fit your specific needs. Quickly correlating the best rate and awesome affordable payment schedules for you. Go online, call, or stop by one of our locations and receive the Rails West personal touch that has kept us as one of the best places to do your banking.

In closing, we thank you for your loyalty and participation at Rails West. Thank you for using our services, and thank you for giving us the opportunity to serve you. Hoping that 2022 will be a great year for all our members and their families!

Richard Ely, CEO
Rails West Federal Credit Union



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

January 1 st	New Year's Day	Closed
January 17th	MLK Jr. Day	Closed
February 21st	Presidents' Day	Closed

Don't let your bills pile up



**RESET
DEBT**

Apply for a Consolidation Loan

A new year is upon us, and it's the perfect opportunity to begin taking control of your finances. With the Covid-19 pandemic still looming, 2021 was a tough year for many people. If you accrued and are trying to manage credit card or medical debt, you're not alone and Rails West FCU is here to help you make a fresh start in the best way possible.

Based on a report by CreditCards.com, during the Covid-19 pandemic, more than half of adults with credit card debt - approximately 51 million people - added to their balances. The report found that 44% of them blame the pandemic. In addition, medical debt has spiked this year, according to Credit Karma, who reported a 9% increase from 19.6 million to 21.4 million. As a way to help struggling consumers, many credit card companies are now offering various forms of financial relief to those impacted by the coronavirus pandemic. However, it is important to be wary and ask questions about the fees and terms associated with these programs. You may find that a better, more affordable and reliable option is a Debt Consolidation Loan from Rails West FCU.

This low-rate debt consolidation loan will allow you to lower monthly payments from high-interest credit cards while also providing the option to keep some cash on-hand and help you work toward your overall financial goals. With a Debt Consolidation Loan, you'll enjoy:

- * Lower interest rates and payments
- * A fixed payment
- * One due date and one bill
- * More monthly flexibility
- * No more high-interest debt
- * Credit score improvement
- * A clear understanding of what you owe
- * A successful payoff plan

Make 2022 the year you become debt-free with the support of your trusted credit union. To learn more or apply today, visit www.railswestcu.org, call 208-232-5746, or stop by any branch location.



Balloting for the Board of Directors will be Friday February 25, 2022 from 9:00am-5:00pm at the Chubbuck Branch. Ballots will also be accepted at the annual meeting on Thursday, March 3, 2022. You must be a member of Rails West FCU and be 18 years or older to vote.

The following individuals are running for three positions on the Board of Directors:

Terry Shumway

Gregg Clark

Kerry Kawamura

Shane Anderson



As a member-owner, you're cordially invited to join your fellow members at the credit union's annual meeting on March 3, 2022 at 5:30pm at the Chubbuck Branch. This meeting is your opportunity to learn about how your credit union is doing and what's planned for the coming year. It's a chance to visit with your co-owners, including the board of directors and credit union staff. So make plans now to attend. We hope to see you at the annual meeting.



The expressway for your monthly statements

Put your statements on the fast track by signing up for e-statements. Each month, we'll send you an email alerting you that your statement is ready for review. Then just log in to your account to retrieve it. If you like, you can print it for your files, but why not cut the clutter and file it electronically? E-statements are not only faster than paper statements, they are safer, too. No worries about your statement getting delayed or lost in the mail, or someone stealing it and your personal information from your mailbox. E-statements are kinder to the environment, too. And if you're planning a winter getaway - whether it's brief or extended - e-statements allow you to stay up-to-date on your account no matter your location. Contact the credit union today for more information on enrolling in e-statements.



Your Credit Union has the best Vehicle Loan Rates in town

Looking to start off 2022 in new wheels? Whether you're looking to buy new, or new to you, remember to make your first stop the credit union for a pre-approved loan. With new car inventories depleted by a global computer chip shortage, your choice of vehicles may be more limited than the last time you needed to shop for one. That may mean expanding your search to include buying from a private seller. If so, find out why the vehicle is for sale, ask to see service and repair records, and have it checked out by a trusted mechanic. No matter where you find your next ride, a pre-approved loan from the credit union can put you in the driver's seat because you can negotiate like a cash buyer. We're here to help, so call on the credit union for your pre-approved loan.

4 Steps to protect against FRAUD

The ongoing pandemic made 2021 miserable for most of us. But not for fraudsters and con artists. According to the Federal Trade Commission, consumers reported losing more than \$3.3 billion to fraud in 2020 - up from \$1.9 billion the year before. Remember, neither the credit union nor other financial institution will ever contact you by email, mail, or phone asking for confidential information. Do not respond to anything suspicious. Contact us if you have concerns. Help yourself by taking these steps:

1. **Keep identity theft at bay.** Don't click on links in unsolicited emails, and make sure your firewalls, anti-spyware, and anti-virus software are current. Use strong passwords, shred financial documents, and paperwork with personal information before you discard them, and guard your Social Security number. Also be wary about giving out your birth date. Secure personal information, especially if you have roommates, employ outside help, or are having work done in your house.
2. **Stay alert to signs that require immediate attention,** such as bills that do not arrive as expected, calls or letters about purchases, and unexplained credit or account statements or credit denials.
3. **Review your credit report regularly.** The law requires the major consumer reporting companies (Equifax, Experian, and TransUnion) to annually give you a free copy of your report at your request. Visit AnnualCreditReport.com, call 1-877-322-8228, or write Annual Credit Report Request Service, P.O. Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281. Look for inquiries from companies you haven't contacted, accounts you didn't open, and debts on your accounts that you can't explain. Also inspect your financial statements and billing statements regularly, looking for charges you did not make.
4. **Take defensive action if you find anything suspicious.** Place a Fraud Alert on your credit reports. The alert tells creditors to follow special procedures before they open new accounts in your name or make changes to your existing accounts. The three nationwide consumer reporting companies have toll-free numbers for placing an initial 90-day fraud alert. A call to one company is adequate: Equifax: 1-800-525-6285; Experian: 1-800-397-3742; or TransUnion: 1-800-680-7289. Close all accounts that have been tampered with or established fraudulently. File a police report to help you with creditors who may want proof of the crime. Report the theft to the Federal Trade Commission. Your report helps law enforcement officials across the country in their investigations. Go online to identitytheft.gov or call 1-877-438-4338.



Clark St. Branch

751 E Clark St.
Pocatello ID 83201
Ph: 208-232-5746
Fx: 208-232-2785

In-State Toll Free: 1-800-233-1352
Out-of-State Toll Free: 1-800-854-9321

Monday thru Friday:
9:00am to 5:00pm Lobby
9:00am to 5:30pm Drive Up

Chubbuck Branch

4708 N Yellowstone Ave
Chubbuck ID 83202
Ph: 208-232-5746
Fx: 208-234-8610 (Loans)
208-234-8640 (Mgt)
208-237-0053 (Teller)

Monday thru Thursday:
9:00am-5:00pm Lobby
9:00am-5:30pm Drive Thru

