

RAILS WEST ROUND UP



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SERVING MEMBERS SINCE 1935



President's Message

This time of year, is when we celebrate our members, recognizing their importance through the celebration of the annual "Member Appreciation Day," which falls this year on October 20th, 2022. Please stop by and see us, have some food and refreshments, enter to win one of the many prizes we will have on hand, and just enjoy a part of the day with us. It will definitely be fun!

Another way we want to show our appreciation to our members is by offering the lowest loan rates in the area to help you win the battle against the rising interest rate hikes from the Federal Open Market Committee. At the Fed's most recent meeting ending on September 21st, we saw them substantially move the federal fund rate again by 75 basis points and more is to be expected as they fight against the inflation problem our country is facing. Their actions are necessary to hopefully bring expenses, like food and gas, down to affordable levels, so I'm thankful for their efforts, but when the Feds move their fund rate up, banks and credit unions usually must follow. Right now, we have been able to make operating adjustments which have allowed us to continue providing our members with low interest loan rates so don't hesitate to come in and visit with one of our Loan Designers to see how we can assist you. One of the best ways to shop today is by being preapproved first. It gives you, the consumer, the upper hand. We are anticipating the months of October through December to be an opportunistic time for you still benefit from getting great rates, terms and payments from Idaho's first Credit Union, Rails West FCU. Hope to see you soon and thank you for your loyalty and membership here at Rails West.

Richard Ely, CEO

HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

October 10th Columbus Day Closed

November 11th Veteran's Day Closed

November 24th Thanksgiving Day Closed

November 25th Black Friday 9am-1pm

December 23rd RWFCU Family Day 9am-1pm

December 26th Christmas (observed) Closed

December 30th RWFCU Family Day 9am-1pm



Are you interested in serving on the Rails West Federal Credit Union's Board of Directors? RWFCU has a volunteer Board of Directors to help oversee the well-being of the credit union. Board members are elected by the credit union members and serve a three-year term. Members of the board are required to attend monthly meetings, annual meeting and the planning session. You must be at least 18 years old and a primary account holder at RWFCU to be considered for the Board of Directors. If you are interested in serving on the board, please submit a resume to the credit union by November 30, 2022.



On October 20, 2022 Rails West FCU will celebrate International Credit Union Day by having a Member Appreciation Day at our Chubbuck Branch location. Food and refreshments will be provided from 11am-2pm. Rails West FCU will also have some giveaways as a way of saying thanks. Plan on stopping by on October 20th, so we can say thank you for being such a loyal member!

Need Some Extra Cash for Christmas?

Are you struggling to find a way to pay for Christmas this year? Our \$1001 Ways to Pay for Christmas loan is the answer! This low-rate, convenient financing option provides a sense of financial flexibility since your monthly payments are setup to be manageable. Stretched out over the next 11 months, these payments can fit into anyone's budget. Don't let the stress of worrying how to pay for that Christmas for your family wreck your holiday. Look for information on our website www.railswestcu.org come November!

Holiday Skip a Payment Time

Need some more jingle in your pocket this holiday season? With a Skip A Payment, you may be able to defer making your payment for either November or December on a qualified loan. Although interest will still accrue, having the extra funds available for your holiday expenses can help de-stress the season. But make a plan. Watch for Skip A Payment information from the credit union in the coming months and have a happier holiday season. You can find the form to use on our website: www.railswestcu.org under the tab Tools & Resources under the "Documents and Forms" page.



eStatements

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.



Loan Rates are going up all over, but we have managed to keep ours low. So 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:

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.

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.

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.

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

Your savings federally insured to at least \$250,000
and backed by the full faith and credit of the United States Government

NCUA

National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency



