

RAILS WEST ROUND UP



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SERVING MEMBERS SINCE 1935



President's Message

Holidays on the Horizon

Holiday deferral season is just around the corner. Visit our website or contact a member of our lending department to help you defer your November or December Auto, Personal, RV or Side by Side payments. Christmas time comes at the same time each year, and so does relief from Rails West FCU. We're happy to help see if your loan is eligible for a deferral and help put some extra money in your budget for Christmas planning. It's as simple as a signature or two and you will be ready to save some money and defer the payment to the end of your loan.

1001 Ways Christmas loan is BACK!

With the strain on your wallets around the holiday season, Rails West is proud to bring back the 1001 Ways Christmas loan. In summary this loan is a short term (10-month) loan featuring a rate as low as 5.99% OAC. This loan allows for you to increase your budget for Christmas shopping and help make Christmas as magical as possible for you and your loved ones. Visit our website at railswestcu.org or call or visit our Chubbuck branch to learn more about what we can do to help with Christmas. Take advantage today as this is a limited holiday promotion that won't last long.

Ask what we can do to help you save time and make banking easier

With all the holidays coming around the corner we know times can get hectic. Rails West is here to help with easy technology services to make your banking easier. Ask about our online banking, E-statements and E-alerts. These are just a few services available to you as a family member of Rails West FCU.

State of the Credit Union

The credit union remains financially sound and well capitalized. All systems are a go for the credit union and we continue to gain momentum in offering benefits and services featured on taking care of our wonderful Rails West family of members.

Over the course of the last year we have increased the returns to our members by nearly tripling the dividends paid back to our members from 2023 to 2024. Certificate promotions and Roll Up Rewards have been centered on putting extra dollars in your accounts. Keep an eye out for upcoming promotions that are designed to benefit “you” our member. Couple that with market leading low interest rates and you can’t help but say we put our family of members first. No need for fancy marketing and large expenses, 2024 has been centered on taking those dollars and returning them to our family of members here at Rails West. This is something we’re very proud on and hope to build on for the future.

Need A Loan but Short On Time?

Visit your mobile app and apply right from your phone. Your Rails West Loan Designers can view your application within minutes. Convenience is closer than you think. We are always aiming to find ways to help you save time and money. Need or want more information visit railswestcu.org or contact a Loan Designer today at 208-232-5746 Loan Help Option 1.

Thank you for making Rails West the best!

From our family to yours we would like to extend a huge “Thank You” to all our members. Its you we’re here for and we truly love our members. For 89 years and counting we continue to serve our community and are proud to be a reliable institution for your financial needs. We are the first credit union in Idaho and the best credit union because of you!

Paul Contreras, CEO
Rails West FCU



HOLIDAY CLOSINGS

| | | |
|-------------------|--------------------------|---------|
| October 14, 2024 | Columbus Day | Closed |
| November 11, 2024 | Veteran's Day (Observed) | Closed |
| November 28, 2024 | Thanksgiving Day | Closed |
| November 29, 2024 | Black Friday | 9am-1pm |
| December 24, 2024 | RWFCU Family Day | 9am-1pm |
| December 25, 2024 | Christmas (observed) | Closed |
| December 31, 2024 | 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, 2024.

Make the Credit Union a
FAMILY AFFAIR!



Do you know someone in your family who could benefit from belonging to the credit union? Because you are a member of the credit union, members of your immediate family are also eligible to join. And chances are many of your friends and neighbors can participate in the benefits of belonging, too. Please pass the word about the Rails West Difference! As a financial

cooperative, any profits don't land in the pockets of a few shareholders. Instead, they are returned to member/owners in the form of lower rates on loans, higher rates on savings, or improved services. The more members who join the credit union, the stronger we become. So do yourself and your family and friends a favor and direct them to the credit union. They will thank you for it, and so will we!

BEWARE *of quick cash* Predators

The signs are tempting - "Fast Cash!" "No Paperwork" "Payday Advance" - but like many temptations, you may soon regret that you've succumbed. That's because you'll pay a high price for the convenience of "fast cash." Check-cashers and payday lenders typically charge high fees for the chance to put cash in your pocket. According to the Center for Responsible Lending, on average, payday loans can carry an interest rate of 391% APR (annual percentage rate) and often the product is designed to force borrowers into repeat loans. If you find yourself in a financial bind, stop by Rails West FCU and we will do our best to help you. A cash advance on a credit card or a Signature Loan may be what you need to get over a financial hump. Equally important, we'll show you how to start putting money aside for the future. Even small amounts can add up, and can give you the financial cushion you need.

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 Rails West FCU 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.



Identify Thieves in a Technological Age

The identity thieves are at it again, and they are getting more and more devious in their attempts to lure you into their nets. Once they have your personal information, they can wreak havoc on your financial life, costing you hundreds and even thousands of dollars.

First, there was phishing and pharming to obtain your personal and financial information via e-mail. Phishing is where you reply directly to the e-mail. Pharming is a more elaborate scheme where the perpetrators lure you (via e-mail) to a Web site that resembles the real thing. However, it's an elaborate "mirror site" where all your information (passwords, account numbers) go directly into the thieves' hands for their immediate misuse.

With the public getting wise to Internet scams, thieves are turning to a new ploy, vishing, that combines old and new technology. The old technology is the telephone, which thieves believe their victims are more familiar with and relaxed about. The new technology is Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP), a type of phone service, which allows thieves to blanket an area with fake phone calls and then harvest information once the victim responds to the phone call. Since the phone calls (both outgoing and incoming) hitch a "free ride" on the thieves' Internet service, the phone calls cost them virtually nothing.

It usually works like this: The victim receives a phone call with a recorded message saying their credit card has been compromised and to call a certain phone number immediately. Once they call that number, another recorded voice asks them to enter their 16-digit account number. Easily obtainable software converts the phone keystrokes into a numeric display.

The solutions are easy. With phishing and pharming, go directly to Rails West FCU's web site. Log in and see if there are any messages concerning your account. Do not reply directly to e-mails, and do not click on links supplied in the e-mails. If you get a phone call with a recorded message, do not call the number given. Instead, call Rails West FCU to ask if there is a problem with your account.

Rails West Federal Credit Union wants you to play it safe with your personal and account information. Don't become a victim of identity theft. It can cost you big and take months to make right again.

**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

