

MEMBER CONNECTION

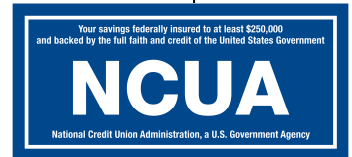
Volume 10, Issue 3

September 2011

Auto Loan Special

Loan Rates are Falling...

Just in Time for Autumn!



We have auto loan rates as low as 2.49% APR.*

Call Julia at (970) 382-3069 or Darci at (970) 382-3066 for more information! Visit our website for a loan application!

* APR=Annual Percentage Rate. You must establish membership in order to qualify for this promotion. Subject to credit qualifications and cancellation at any time. No refinances of current Credit Union loans are allowed.

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International Credit Union Day is

Thursday, October 20, 2011

Please join us for snacks and refreshments to celebrate!

Hey Safari Club Kids! Those of you ages 4-12 should have received an International Credit Union Day coloring page in the mail. Do your best coloring and return it to us by October 17th to display in the credit union lobby and you'll get a gold dollar!

Be sure to see your Credit Union for all your financial needs.

- Loans
- Savings/Certificates
- Checking Accounts
- ATM/Debit Cards
- Kid's Accounts
- Direct Deposit/Payroll Deduction
- Website
- On-Line Banking
- eStatements
- eAlerts
- Voice Response
- Check Images

BI-ANNUAL SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE REVIEW

The Supervisory Committee is conducting their bi-annual member account verification. The statement you received was mailed by the Supervisory Committee. If you have any questions, concerns or discrepancies in your account, you must direct these to:

Larry Corman, Supervisory Committee Chair

396 Pine Spring Drive

Bayfield, CO 81122

Please use this address ONLY to contact the Supervisory Committee if you find a discrepancy in your account. Please send all other mail, payments, deposits and correspondence to our address at 15 Bodo Drive, Durango, CO 81303. By not using the Bodo Drive address your deposits and payments could be delayed for a number of days.

eStatement Users: You will be receiving an eStatement as you normally do on the first business day of the month. You will also receive a paper statement in the mail due to this Supervisory Committee member account verification.

OVER-THE-COUNTER SALES OF PAPER SAVINGS BONDS ENDING IN 2011

The U.S. Department of the Treasury will end over-the-counter sales of paper savings bonds on December 31, 2011, including sales through financial institutions and applications mailed directly to the Federal Reserve Bank by customers. This move is expected to save taxpayers an estimated \$70 million over the next five years.

Although paper bonds are being discontinued, electronic Series EE and Series I Savings Bonds will remain available for purchase via TreasuryDirect. This secure, web-based system, operated by the Bureau of the Public Debt, has been used by investors since 2002 to purchase savings bonds online.

You can buy electronic bonds online at www.treasurydirect.gov

A Few Frequently Asked Questions:

I already have paper savings bonds. What will happen to them?

Existing paper savings bonds are valid issues of the Treasury Department and will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date or until redeemed. You can redeem paper bonds at most local financial institutions, including your Credit Union. You also can convert your paper savings bonds to electronic savings bonds in TreasuryDirect using a program called SmartExchange. There's no charge to convert paper bonds. No earned interest will be lost, and the bonds will keep their original issue dates and current interest rate terms.

I like to give savings bonds as gifts. Can I still do so?

Yes. You can buy electronic savings bonds as gifts in TreasuryDirect. You can hold the bonds in your gift box area in TreasuryDirect until you're ready to electronically deliver them to the gift recipient. The recipient must have a TreasuryDirect account (or be named on a minor linked account if under 18 years old.)

Go to www.treasurydirect.gov for more information.

ONLINE BANKING CHANGES

Effective January 1, 2012, check images from past months will no longer be accessible through Online Banking. We are changing processors, so make sure you print any images you will need. Going forward (from January 1, 2012), check images processed through the new service provider will be accessible through Online Banking. Please contact us at 970.247.5204 if you have any questions.

HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR BENEFICIARY?

If you would like to add a beneficiary (or beneficiaries) to your account please make available:

Beneficiary's full name

Beneficiary's date of birth

Beneficiary's social security number

Address and Phone Number

If you would like to add a beneficiary to your account we need the above information and all account owners must sign to make this change. You may either write a letter or come in and we'll make sure your account records are updated!

GO PAPERLESS TODAY!

Guess how many members received their statement electronically last month? **703!** That means by around noon on the first business day of the month, those members had their Credit Union statement at their fingertips. Our eStatement users saved 1,969 pages of paper from being printed and mailed!

Receiving your account information by eStatement is secure, fast and free. All you have to do is sign into home banking, click on the eStatement link and *voilà* you have all your account information. If you already use Online Banking, just log into Online Banking and click on the link at the bottom of the page to sign up. If you don't use our home banking, simply give us a call to get started.

You have better things to do with your time than wait for the mail to arrive! Get going on eStatements and experience the freedom!

INTERNATIONAL CREDIT UNION DAY

At some point, you've probably wondered what the difference is between credit unions and other financial institutions. In reality, many differences exist, but the short of it is this: Credit unions exist to help people, not to make a profit. That difference resulted in Southwest Colorado Federal Credit Union being established as a financial cooperative rather than a bank. Although we don't sell groceries or farming supplies or electricity, we share the same principles as other cooperatives. At a cooperative, you're a member/owner, not a customer.

In order to increase public awareness of cooperatives and promote their formation and growth, the United Nations General Assembly has designated 2012 as the International Year of Cooperatives (IYC) with the theme "Cooperative Enterprises Build a Better World."

As financial cooperatives that stand on social responsibility and economic viability, credit unions play a substantial role in the global cooperative movement. In 97 countries, close to 186 million people are members of credit unions. Credit unions around the world have taken that message to heart and adapted it for their International Credit Union Day celebration on October 20, 2011, which is the launch of the 2012 IYC. Cooperatives address the common goals of their members. Cooperative principles include:

- Voluntary and open membership
- Democratic member control
- Member economic participation
- Autonomy and independence
- Education, training, and information
- Cooperation among cooperatives
- Concern for community.



These principles underscore the cooperative values of self-help, self-responsibility, democracy, equality, equity, and solidarity. Here are a few examples from the World Council of Credit Unions of how credit unions worldwide are exercising cooperative principles to promote the above values:

- In Mexico, credit union field officers physically take credit union services to the poor in marginalized areas of the country through new handheld technologies, giving them an opportunity and affordable alternative to access financial services.
- Amid the ongoing conflict in Afghanistan, men and women alike are getting the chance to experience democracy firsthand by voting at their local Islamic investment and finance cooperatives (credit unions).
- In Kenya, a credit union with a membership consisting of secondary school teachers offers an HIV/AIDS peer education training program to help members help their communities.
- In Haiti, credit unions have strived to maintain operations in the face of a catastrophic disaster, so that their members have access to the resources they need to begin rebuilding their lives and homes after 2010's devastating earthquake.
- In the U.S., credit unions are committed to providing a safe and affordable alternative to predatory payday lenders. Credit unions are always looking for opportunities to bring affordable services to communities in need.

As financial cooperatives, credit unions are much more than money lenders and holders. Like all cooperatives, we stand for the power of people helping people. Credit unions are prime examples of how the cooperative spirit transforms individuals and advances communities, the first steps toward building a better world.

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Mobile Banking: mb.swcolocu.coop



HOLIDAY CLOSURES

October 10th in observance of Columbus Day

November 11th and 12th in observance of Veterans' Day

November 24th in observance of Thanksgiving Day

December 24th and 26th in observance of Christmas Day

January 2nd in observance of New Year's Day