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Christmas Club Funds

Christmas Club Funds will be available on November 1st. Dividends will be paid to the Christmas Club share accounts on October 31st. You can begin to withdraw the funds at that time or have them transferred to your checking account. Payroll deductions will continue after November 1st, unless you contact the credit union. Funds will be available to all members until December 31st. If you have questions or are interested in starting a Christmas Club account, please call 605.725.0900.

Tax Time is coming

Do we have your correct address on file or have you made special requests to us regarding where you would like your tax forms mailed? Please call us to confirm we have the correct address on file if different from where we currently mail your statements.

7 Steps to Financial Success

1. Create a process for tracking every dollar spent and made (budget).
2. Don't use credit cards to bridge the gap between income and spending.
3. Consistently spend less than you make.
4. Paying more than the minimum is vital to cutting interest charges and ultimately getting out of debt.
5. Have money directly deposited each pay period into a high-yield savings or money market account.
6. Create an adequate cushion: at least three months worth of expenses or a sum equal to six months of expenses for households with one primary wage earner.
7. Live within your means and devote at least 10 percent of your income to investing for the future rather than paying for the past.

International Credit Union Week

Credit Unions build a better world! During Credit Union Week we have a lot going on to support our theme and hope you will join us!

First, from now until Thanksgiving we are collecting Coats for Kids. You can bring your new or gently used coats to our office and place them in the bin. Coats will be given to children in need in the area.

Second, please join us on Thursday, October 21, as we celebrate with coffee and cookies. While you are at either of our locations you can also register for door prizes.

Third, we hope you will consider joining us for our first ever CU 5K+ on Saturday, October 22. This 5K+ and 1 mile fun walk starts and ends at SODES FCU but the 5K+ will run by all four credit unions in Aberdeen. This run is just over a 5K, thus the "+" because as credit unions we go the extra distance. Registration is \$20 until October 7 and \$25 after October 7. You can register at our office or print out a registration online at www.hcpfcu.coop and click on press room. This run is a fundraiser for SD Junior Achievement, which promotes financial literacy in the classroom. Please consider joining us for the 5K+ or the 1 mile fun walk.



Fall 2011

New Data Processor is here!

Many of you reading this newsletter today have most likely had a chance to experience our new data processor this week. We know change isn't always easy, but we feel you will be very pleased with our new data processor as you discover the added services it will provide you. Below is a list of some important changes. If you have questions please feel free to call the credit union or email us at info@hcpfcu.coop.

After October 1st detailed account history will not carry over to the Internet Banking or Voice Teller; however, we will still be able to access your history at the credit union and your September statement showing full September history is included with this newsletter.

All members will need to re-enroll in Internet Banking. Once complete you will have access to FREE Bill Pay and Zash Pay. Zash Pay is a new product you can use to pay people quickly, and you only need to know their email address or cell phone number. Watch for more information coming soon!

All members will need to re-enroll in Voice Teller.

If you have book marked Internet Banking as a favorite on your computer you will need to reset this to the new link.

All drafts/checks and electronic items will post during the night cycle.

All debit/ATM card transactions will be live.

Deposits for NSF items must be made by 11 AM.

E-statements will be available in early 2012, watch our Winter Newsletter for more information and updates.

Financial Snapshot

September 2011

Members: 3515

Shares: \$31,688,340

Loans: \$28,539,880

Assets: \$34,570,480

This credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration at least up to \$250,000 per account.

Holiday Closings:

Columbus Day: Monday,
October 10, 2011

Veterans Day: Friday,
November 11, 2011, the drive up
will be open on Saturday,
November 12

Thanksgiving Day: Thursday,
November 24, 2011

Christmas Day observance:
Monday, December 26, 2011

New Year's Day observance:
Monday, January 2, 2012

Lights! Camera! Action!

Need a stocking stuffer idea? You can purchase your movie tickets from Healthcare Plus! The tickets can be used at the Carmike Theatre in the Lakewood Mall. The tickets can be purchased at either of our offices. These tickets are only available to our members.

Audits

Harrington & Associates from Huron, SD is currently sending out verification of account forms to some of our members. This is legitimate. They choose large balance and random accounts and send the verifications. You only need to verify the information is correct. You do not have to provide any account information as it's already on the request. If you do have questions please call us.

Expanding Your College

Dollars By Amy Jo Johnson, Director of Learning, CUAD

Twenty two years ago, I walked onto the University of Mary campus to have my life changed forever. While I was there, I learned many things – most importantly, the life skill of how to make the almighty dollar go a long way. This is my gift to the class of 2016:

Manage your money. Get a free checking and savings account at your [local credit union](#). Keep track of your debit card/checking account as to not go in the red and accumulate overdraft fees, as your card may be declined if your account has insufficient funds. To prevent overdrafts, you may want to ask your credit union to provide overdraft protection. If you must have a credit card, get one with the lowest interest rate possible, no annual fees and enough of a credit limit for emergencies. Pay credit card bills on time to avoid late fees. Save your spare change in a big jar and count it yourself. Stay away from coin-counting machines at the grocery store; they will rip you off or charge a fee.

Don't drink. College students will spend over \$5 billion on alcohol this year. If you must drink, be cheap, buy in bulk, drink where the specials are and don't bring much money with you to limit how much you drink and spend. Hit other people's parties, brew your own beer or wine (warning: brewing may not be "legal" in your dorm room) and avoid ordering alcoholic beverages in sit-down restaurants where the alcoholic beverages mark up can be anywhere between 75-400 percent.

Buy used books. Don't wait to run to the bookstore the day before your class begins. Instead of buying textbooks borrow them. If you can't borrow, buy used. The campus bookstore might have a supply of used books, but they are limited and sometimes overpriced; so check online sources like amazon.com and isbn.nu. Once the semester is over don't forget to sell your books too.

Two words: Ramen Noodles. You can't beat \$.10/ package. If eating on the school plan, pay for the partial or whole meal plan, and use it. See if you are allowed to take food to go or can have limitless meals. Quit buying fufu coffee at the café.

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Make your own and save \$500 a year. Quit drinking bottled water; tap is free. Collect coupons and follow weekly sales. When you go shopping, make a list of all the meals you are going to eat for the next week first; buy ONLY what you need to make those meals. Don't shop hungry, and don't give in to impulse buys at the checkout stand.

Ditch the car. Campus living is not only fun, but also much more cost effective than living on your own. This will also help you get around without a car. If no campus housing remains, try to get an apartment (find yourself some roommates) close by. Walking, biking, roller-blading, skateboarding or public transportation will save you money on gas.

Communicate with spoken words and sentences. Cut down on text messaging. You can easily text your way to hundreds of dollars in extra fees. Text messaging is charged both to the sender and the receiver; ask your friends to refrain from texting you. Make a phone call during your free minutes or send an email instead. Some cell phone plans come bundled with a maximum number of free text messages. Communicate via email and instant messaging or create a blog, share photos on Flickr or invite friends to visit your Facebook page. Skype is also a fun and inexpensive way to communicate. If you live on campus, don't pay for Internet. In many cases your campus will offer free Wi-Fi.

Easy money. If you are not able to work while in school and need some extra cash, donate plasma. You can easily net a couple hundred dollars a month. Volunteer for a medical study. Most do not require much time and you get paid! Sell your expertise in a subject as a tutor, computer skills and music lessons. Get a job in the food service industry as you might get discounted or free food. Offer a resume writing service.

Finally, the best money saving tip is saving dollars for others by volunteering. When you volunteer, you are taking away from the time you might be out spending money. Call your local United Way to see which agencies in your community need help.

"Volunteers go unpaid not because they are worthless, rather they are priceless."

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