

Credit Union



News-N-Review

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Editorial Staff:

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LOBBY HOURS

9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. M-Th

9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. F

DRIVE-UP HOURS

7:15 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. daily



A Message from the Manager

A record number of home foreclosures as well as the government bail-out of failed financial services companies has dominated the news in recent weeks. It is apparent the national economy will be tested like never before as we move forward into 2009. Okay, enough of the gloom and doom on the national scene and more news from the local scene. Your credit union has performed very well in 2008. Net income through August is running 50% higher than budget, total assets are \$1.5 million higher than last year at this time, and loan delinquencies/write-offs are at historically low levels. These statistics reveal to me that you, the members, continue to have confidence in the credit union

despite tough economic times.

A long standing motto in the credit union industry is "people helping people". There is no doubt this occurs in our credit union. The staff want to thank you for your continued support of the credit union and look forward to serving you in the future.

An important event occurring in October is International Credit Union Week. We plan to celebrate on Thursday, October 16th, so stop by the credit union and enjoy some refreshments.

Lastly, this year will be over before we know it. Enjoy the nice fall weather and have a safe and happy holiday season.

Pete DiDio

Share Insurance Protects Your Savings

Good old "Plan B." It's nice to have something to fall back on when things don't go the way you plan. But when it comes to building a financial cushion for retirement, or saving for college or a down payment for a new house, setbacks can be costly.

Safeguarding your hard-earned money is critical. That's why Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union has federal share insurance, administered by an independent government agency, the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA). The National Credit Union Share Insurance Fund (NCUSIF) protects aggregate savings up to at least \$100,000 in your regular share savings, share certificates, and share draft/checking accounts.

The coverage for individual retirement accounts (IRAs) is \$250,000. Funds in traditional IRAs and Roth IRAs are added together and insured in the aggregate to \$250,000.

Something else about share insurance: It separately insures individual and joint accounts. For example, say you have an individual account containing \$100,000, and a joint account with your spouse containing \$100,000. Each account is insured separately for a total coverage of \$200,000.

So how do you know we're federally insured? All federally insured credit unions--like yours--must post the official NCUA insurance sign in their offices. Look for it the next time you stop by.



As do other NCUSIF-insured credit unions, we abide by high standards of safety and soundness. Because of that, NCUSIF is a strong, well-capitalized fund.

So bring your savings to us. You can count on the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union to take good care of it.



KID'S CORNER

Gear Up for Holiday Giving

Do you remember the best gift someone ever gave you? What made it so special? Were you really excited? Giving gifts can make you feel the same way.

People give gifts for birthdays, holidays, and religious occasions. It's also nice to give a gift to mark a special occasion: If your sister just earned a leading role in the school play, you may want to give her something to say congratulations.

Giving gifts takes planning and saving. Here are some tips to help you along:

- * Make a list of all the people you want to give gifts to and how much each gift will cost. This will help you figure out how much money you need to save.
- * Help your parents and neighbors with odd jobs to earn money. Offer to walk dogs, mow lawns, or baby-sit.
- * Save part of your allowance. Put \$1 a week in your credit union share account and you'll have over \$50 by the end of the year.

Thoughtful gifts are the ones people keep for a long time. They don't have to cost a lot. Shop the sales, or check out second-hand stores for special and unique items. Here are some inexpensive gift suggestions:



- * Put together a photo album, or frame a picture of you and the person who will receive the gift.
- * Buy or make a calendar and fill in birthdays and anniversaries. Add small pictures.
- * Make a clay flowerpot or pencil holder.
- * Knit a scarf, or make a beaded bracelet or necklace.
- * Give chore coupons for a free car wash or night of baby-sitting.

Wrap your presents in homemade wrapping paper. Check out Googolplex's Wrap It Up! article for some great inexpensive ideas.

THE MONEY Matchup

Sometimes money can seem confusing, but you may know more about money than you think. Try matching up the financial terms on the left with the correct definition on the right.



- | | |
|-----------------|--|
| 1. credit union | a. An amount of money you owe to someone else. |
| 2. debit card | b. To take money out of your credit union account. |
| 3. credit card | c. A written promise to pay someone a specified amount of money. |
| 4. check | d. A plan for how much you will spend and how much you will save. |
| 5. budget | e. A card that allows you to take money directly from your checking account. |
| 6. loan | f. A place to manage your money and keep it safe. |
| 7. debt | g. To put money in your credit union account. |
| 8. interest | h. A card that allows you to borrow money. |
| 9. withdraw | i. A legal agreement to borrow money from your credit union and pay it back over time. |
| 10. deposit | j. The charge for borrowing money. |

Answers:
1) f, 2) c, 3) h, 4) d, 5) e, 6) g, 7) a, 8) i, 9) j, 10) b

MONEY\$SMART FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT CAMP

Coming Friday, November 14 to TPAC is the 2008 edition of Money\$smart Financial Management Camp! Designed for middle school students, Money\$smart is a financial management camp offering training in sound personal financial philosophies and practices in a fun environment that enhances leadership and teamwork skills. The one-day camp is sponsored by Topeka area Credit Unions in cooperation with Kansas State Treasurer Lynn Jenkins. Applications will be available at the Credit Union by mid-October. Cost to participate is \$10 if registered by October 31. Registrations received November 1 or later require a \$20 fee. Plan now to attend – we're hoping for a sell-out crowd! And parents, don't worry, November 14 is an inservice day for Topeka 501, Auburn Washburn 437, and Seaman 345 school districts.

Happy Credit Union Day 2008



We're celebrating a special day, and you're part of it. Join us October 16 to celebrate International Credit Union Day with this year's theme "My Credit

Union: It Belongs to Me." International Credit Union Day celebrates the history, tradition, and spirit of the international credit union movement—and those who own it.

We want to take this opportunity to thank you for being an important part of the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union. It's members like you who help to make up this truly special organization—not shareholders or other motives. You own your credit union, and we are here to serve you.

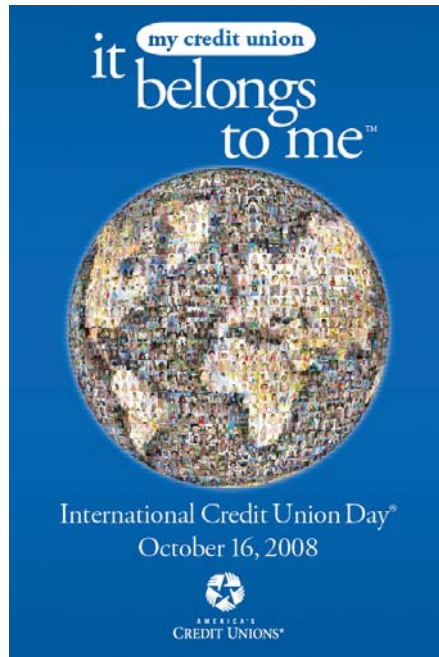
Credit unions exist to provide a safe, convenient place for members to save money and to get loans at reasonable rates—credit union members save \$240* a year per household. Take full advantage of your credit union membership. Meet your borrowing and savings needs with our member friendly, low-priced services.

In honor of International Credit Union Day we will serve cookies, coffee, and hot chocolate in the lobby. We also have some small gifts as tokens of our appreciation to our loyal members.

This International Credit Union Day, we are excited to be a part of your hopes and dreams. Thank you for being part of the credit union difference. Let us know how we're doing and what we can do to make your credit union membership even better. Call us today at 785-291-8774.

We look forward to seeing you.

*According to data from the Credit Union National Association (CUNA).



Electronic Is Eco-Friendly

As you manage your money, using online technology gives the environment some needed help—and helps you save time and the money you're managing. It may not seem significant, but when you look at the number of financial transactions you make each month, multiplied by the number of people doing the same thing ... it adds up.

When you need a loan, if driving (or walking) to the Credit Union isn't convenient, consider searching our rates online and applying via our Web site at www.ksbcbscu.org. Applying online saves trees as well as gasoline.

Opt to receive e-statements via e-mail each month, instead of mailed paper statements. Use our online banking service to check balances and transfer funds between accounts. To sign up for e-statements, simply log in to CU@Home, click on the Services button, then choose 'Change E-Statement Options' from the Service menu.



And when you pay bills, use the Credit Union's free online bill payment service. Click the BillPay tab in the upper right corner of the Credit Union homepage to launch the Payment Center. If you have never used the service before (or it has been more than 6 months since you last logged in), click the ENROLL button to get started. This service even has the capability of electronic bill presentment, which means your 'billers' can submit your invoice through the Payment Center. Since there's no need to create and deliver a paper invoice, it saves paper and uses less energy.

Since we only have one planet earth, we all benefit from making eco-friendly choices. If you're not using electronic services, check out what's offered. Oh, and use our Web site to check. If you're unsure how to use the Web site call 291-8774. Credit union staff will be happy to walk you through it—you can set up most electronic services with just a few clicks of the mouse.

If credit union members don't vote,

Credit union issues won't count.

Vote November 4th

Get Out the Vote!

Make your voice heard and get out to vote! The right to vote is one of the most important privileges of being a U.S. citizen. But in the 2004 election, only 58% of the voting age population (18 and older) voted, according to the U.S. Census Bureau; and only 65% of the eligible population was registered to vote. To register, contact your local election official for a voter registration form.

How You Drive = What You Spend on Gas

Unless you can afford to buy a less-thirsty car, you only need to look into the mirror to see your best option for improving gas mileage: you, and your driving habits. A recent series of road tests by the staff at automotive Web site *Edmunds.com* shows how dramatically changing your habits can improve gas mileage—especially in highway travel. Gas mileage gains from slowing down and driving less aggressively ranged from 10% to 38%, depending on how much driving style was changed.

Whatever your driving habits now, here are some tips to save on gas:

*Slow down. By cutting speed from the mid-70s to 65 mph and avoiding lane changes and bursts of acceleration, the tests showed a 33% to 38% mileage improvement.

*Use cruise control. By setting cruise control for the flow of traffic, the *Edmunds.com* crew got a 15% improvement in mileage compared with aggressive lane changing.

*Don't tailgate. Not only is it dangerous to drive close to the car ahead of you, the frequent braking and accelerating also decreases gas mileage.

*Don't put luggage on top of the car. Those roof-top luggage carriers are tempting for family vacations, but the increased air resistance cut gas mileage 21% in the Edmunds tests.

*Avoid idling. When you sit with the motor running, you're getting zero miles per gallon; shut off the engine if you're stopped for more than a minute.

*Check tire pressure. Having tires inflated 25% less than the pressure recommended by the manufacturer—usually displayed on a plaque on the driver's door—can cut gas mileage 3% to 5%.

*Be cautious. Don't fall for Internet or other promotions for devices or additives that promise big fuel savings. If those devices really worked, their promoters would have sold them to car companies instead of pitching them online.

And of course, when it comes time to buy a new vehicle, look for something that offers mileage improvement while still meeting your needs. When you're ready to shop, call or stop by the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union for help with all your financing needs.



Your Credit History Affects Your Loan Rate

If you think maintaining a clean credit history isn't that big a deal, take another look: There can be a spread of as much as six percentage points (even more) charged to consumers with excellent credit—often called the prime market—vs. those who have a tarnished history—sometimes called the subprime market.

MSN Autos reports that, "in the world of credit, 'subprime' is actually the rule rather than the exception.... The majority of car buyers—approximately 60%—are classified as subprime. In many cases, all it takes is a 60-day overdue payment to earn a subprime rating. Only 40% of consumers have a squeaky-clean credit rating."

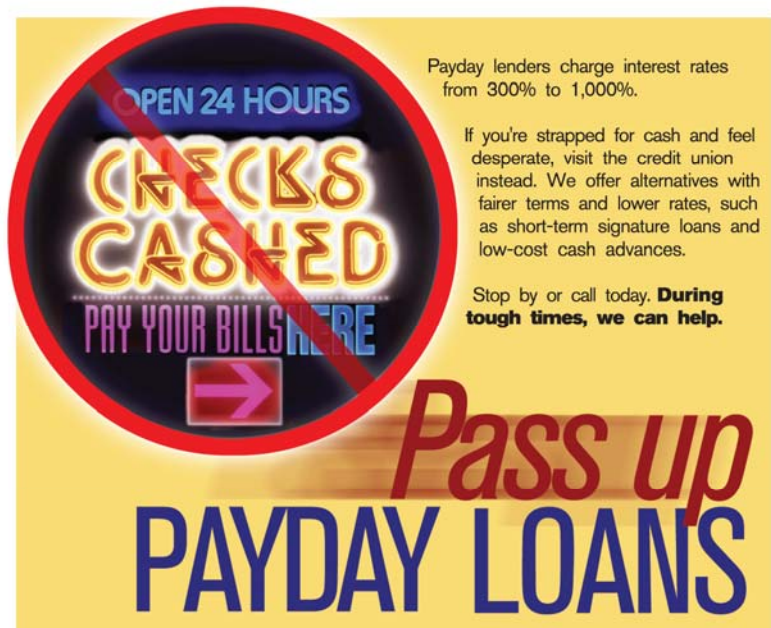
Let's add a few more numbers to the analysis. Edmunds.com reports that the average car loan is about \$24,000. And Datatrac reports, in CUNA's News Now, that credit unions charge an average one-and-one-half percentage points less for a new car loan, and charge an average two percentage points less for a used vehicle loan.

Even without crunching the numbers, two things are crystal clear: 1) It pays to protect your good credit record. 2) It pays to see the people at the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union for your car loans.



The Credit Union will be closed for the following holidays.

Thanksgiving – November 27 & 28
Christmas – December 25 & 26
New Year's Day – January 1, 2009



OPEN 24 HOURS
~~CHECKS CASHED~~
PAY YOUR BILLS HERE

Payday lenders charge interest rates from 300% to 1,000%.

If you're strapped for cash and feel desperate, visit the credit union instead. We offer alternatives with fairer terms and lower rates, such as short-term signature loans and low-cost cash advances.

Stop by or call today. **During tough times, we can help.**

Pass up
PAYDAY LOANS