

The Membership Newsletter of **Sidney Federal Credit Union**
SFCU NEWSLINE
 Sidney Federal Credit Union



Thank You Members

As 2011 comes to an end, Sidney Federal Credit Union wants to “Thank You” for your membership and for using SFCU to meet your financial needs! We hope you consider taking even greater advantage of all Sidney Federal Credit Union has to offer in 2012, and we hope that we will remain your financial institution of choice for a long time to come. So again, “Thank You” for choosing SFCU. We look forward to continuing to serve you in the months and years ahead.

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As of November 30th, 2011

Total members: 47018
 Total Assets: \$333,042,096



Federally Insured by NCUA



FROM THE PRESIDENT/CEO



James A. Doig

The Tax Man Cometh!

Great news for all you procrastinators! Because of the weekend and the observance of Emancipation Day, there are two extra days to file taxes in 2012. You must submit your 2011 tax forms electronically or have them postmarked by Tuesday April 17, 2012. But even if you wait until the last moment to file your taxes, there are three things you can do right **NOW** to lessen the stress.

1. Get a set of folders or large envelopes and label them for your various tax documents. As you receive tax information from your employer, Sidney Federal Credit Union and any other financial institutions, any investments you hold and so on, place them in the appropriate folder.
2. Make a folder for possible tax deductions as well. Go through your year's receipts and pull out those related to real estate taxes, charitable donations, medical expenses, etc., and place them in the folder. Dig out your 2010 return to help you remember what you claimed previously.
3. If you are eligible, contribute to your Individual Retirement Account. You have until tax day to do so, but the sooner the better. Because the interest is accumulating tax free, you will want to maximize the time you have your money tucked away for retirement. Stop in and ask to speak to anyone in our Member Services Department to discuss your IRA options.

Once you have the information compiled, you can either provide it to your tax preparer or do it yourself. You may find that having taken the time to get organized, filing is the easy part!



e-statements: easy and efficient

Sign up for e-statements and help Sidney Federal Credit Union be a better steward of the environment and of members' money. Simply stop by or call and we'll get you started. Then, when your account statement is ready each month, we'll send you an email advising you of its availability. You can view it online and save it electronically, or print it off and file it if you prefer. Either way there's less paper involved (no envelope) and no funds are spent on postage. That makes SFCU more efficient and those savings can be passed back to you and other members in the form of lower fees, better rates on savings and lower rates on loans. It's more secure for you as well because there's no danger of your statement being stolen from your mailbox. You can go online, give us a call or stop in for more information.

Just say no . . . Tax refund loans

Getting a refund for tax year 2011? Can't wait for your tax refund? Beware of lenders offering a Tax Refund Loan (RAL) or Refund Anticipation Checks (RAC). These types of short term loans use your federal income tax refund as collateral, and provide taxpayers with fast access to their refund dollars. These loans are a high cost way to borrow money against your tax refund for a fee - **APRs as high as 774%** have been reported. If you are short of cash, avoid these types of loans. Sidney Federal Credit Union wants you to get the most from your tax return so just say "**NO**" to instant refunds and wait a few weeks. It



may take a bit longer than "next day cash," but your money will last longer that way. Remember a low interest loan from SFCU is a great alternative. Stop in and ask to speak to our loan experts today.

Inactive Accounts

SFCU wants you to keep your account active, and take advantage of the many services we offer! Accounts that have had no activity performed for twelve consecutive months, will be assessed a \$5.00 monthly fee until the account is either re-activated or until the funds have been exhausted. So, we urge you to use and enjoy SFCU's many free services, and continue to make us your primary financial institution!

When an apple a day just isn't enough...HSA

A **Health Savings Account** from us can help control your health care costs with a dividend bearing checking account. You will receive a free HSA debit card, free online account access, free e-statements, free check images, free billpayer, and mobile account access. These accounts are tax free when used for qualifying medical expenses. Visit one of our local convenient branches or call to learn how an HSA can help you control health costs.



One and done.... Consolidate your debt!

If your mailbox is filling up with mail from a guy named "BILL," it's time to visit SFCU to talk about a consolidation loan. We'll work with you to pay off those high-interest credit cards or other high-rate debt that has accumulated. With a consolidation loan, you will have one payment to make at an interest rate that's fair. Almost always, that means you'll pay less total interest as well as have a lower monthly payment. Our low rate loan consolidation loan promotion begins in mid January ...just in time to take care of all those guys named "BILL"

SFCU RATES & TERMS

TYPE OF ACCOUNT	MINIMUM OPENING BALANCE	MINIMUM TO EARN DIVIDEND	DIVIDEND RATE	ANNUAL PERCENTAGE YIELD
Main Share	\$6.00	\$100.00	.10%	.10%
		\$500.00	.20%	.20%
		\$5,000.00	.30%	.30%
Money Management	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	.20%	.20%
		\$5,000.00	.40%	.40%
		\$10,000.00	.60%	.60%
Term Share Certificates (Traditional IRA, Roth IRA Coverdell Educational Savings Accounts)			PLEASE CALL CREDIT UNION FOR RATES AND TERMS	
Club Accounts (Christmas, Vacation, Tax)	None	None	.10%	.10%
Health Savings Accounts (Checking)	\$5.00	\$100.00	.25%	.25%
		\$500.00	.50%	.50%
		\$5,000.00	1.00%	1.00%

Rates Effective as of November 30, 2011

LOANS	RATES*	TERMS
New (2008-New)	As low as 5.15% APR	Up to 72 months**
Used Auto (2003-2007)	As low as 5.85% APR	Up to 60 months**
Sportscraft (2008-new)	As low as 7.95% APR	Up to 60 months
	(2007-older)	As low as 8.65% APR
Motorcycles (2008-new)	As low as 7.75% APR	Up to 60 months
	(2007-older)	As low as 8.25% APR
Boat / RV Loans	As low as 7.50% APR	Up to 180 months
Unsecured Loans	As low as 7.00% APR	Up to 36 months
	As low as 9.00% APR	Up to 60 months
Home Improvement	As low as 8.20% APR	Up to 36 months
	As low as 9.70% APR	Up to 120 months
Home Equity: Variable	As low as 3.75% APR	10 years
	Fixed	As low as 6.20% APR
Mortgages: Variable	As low as 3.40% APR	30 years
	Fixed	As low as 4.50% APR
VISA Card:	Classic	13.9% APR Variable
	Gold	10.9% APR Variable
	Platinum	7.9% APR Variable

SFCU ALSO OFFERS: Share Secured Loans, Overdraft Protection, Mobile Home Loans and Land Loans.

*Your Annual Percentage Rate may vary depending on your credit score. ** Year and mileage restrictions may apply.

Rates effective as of November 30, 2011 and subject to change. Some restrictions may apply.

The Holidays are over, should you put your Credit Cards on ice?

If impulse shopping has your spending out of control here is a tip that may help. Put your credit cards on ice . . . literally . . . by immersing your plastics in a container of water, then placing the container in the bottom of your freezer. If you really need to use your card, you can dig through the leftovers and thaw it out. But most likely, you'll be better able to resist impulse shopping.

Important Change to U.S. Savings Bonds

Planning to buy a savings bond? Effective December 31, 2011 the U.S. Government will no longer sell paper savings bonds at financial institutions. But they're not going away-electronic savings bonds can be purchased online through TreasuryDirect.

Already have paper savings bonds? Existing paper bonds are still valid and will earn interest for 30 years from the issue date or until redeemed. You can continue to cash your savings bonds at any convenient Sidney Federal Credit Union Branch.

Learn more at www.treasurydirect.gov



Krista Charles

Krista was hired as a full time Service Representative in the Hancock Branch in December of 2003.

In June of 2004 she was promoted to the Vault Teller position. In November of 2005 she accepted a new position as Loan Officer, the

position she currently holds in the Hancock Branch.

Krista enjoys volunteering on the Sidney Federal Credit Union "Youth Sub Committee," and the Hancock Rotary Club.

Krista and her fiance Dave have two children,

Kelsie 5, and David 2. Rounding out the family is their dog Buddy.

Krista is quite busy with the children but spending time with family and friends is a high priority. She also enjoys reading and traveling when time allows.

What's new? Courtesy Pay . . . just when you need it!

Courtesy Pay is a discretionary service designed to help prevent your insufficient funds item from being returned or declined. With Courtesy Pay, we have the option to cover your overdrafts up to your Courtesy Pay limit (including fees) if you overdraw your account. This can save you the embarrassment and inconvenience of a returned or declined item and the fees normally charged by the merchants for items returned to them. There is NO fee for having Courtesy pay unless you use it.

These are the steps taken when you don't have enough money to cover a transaction:

1. We will try to move funds from other overdraft protection sources, such as a line of credit or savings account.
2. If these resources are unavailable, we may pay the item and overdraw your account up to the amount of your Courtesy Pay limit (including the Courtesy Pay fees).
3. If Courtesy Pay is utilized, we will charge the standard overdraft fee(s) for each paid item.
4. You will need to bring your account current within 30 calendar days or we will withdraw your Courtesy Pay privileges.

To learn more about our new Courtesy Pay program and how it can save you from an embarrassing moment call 1-877-642-7328.



HOURS OF OPERATION

DRIVE-UP

	Mon. - Fri.	Sat.
Bainbridge	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Greene	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Norwich	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Oneonta	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Sidney	7:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Hancock	Mon., Tues., Thurs	Fri.
	9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM
	Wed.	Sat.
	9:00 AM - 2:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
Walton	Mon. - Fri.	Sat.
	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

LOBBY AND LOAN DEPT.* (Teller Line)

Mon. - Wed., Fri	Thu.	Sat.			
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON			
9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON			
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Mon., Tues., Thurs	Fri.	Sat.			
			9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON
			Wed.		
9:00 AM - 2:00 PM					
Mon. - Thurs	Fri.	Sat.			
			9:00 AM - 4:30 PM	9:00 AM - 6:00 PM	9:00 AM - 12:00 NOON

*Loan Departments that close at 4:30 PM will remain open from 4:30 PM - 6:00 PM by appointment only.

ART (Audio Response Teller) local: (607) 561-SFCU (7328), (607) 432-1451 Toll Free: 1-800-642-SFCU (7328)
local: (607) 967-7101, Toll Free 1-877-642-SFCU (7328)

Sidney Federal Credit Union

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