

# HIGH PEAKS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

# News

## ROUND UP

Autumn 2011

## We Need Volunteers For VITA!

Are you looking for a volunteer opportunity in your community? Would you like to see firsthand how High Peaks Federal Credit Union works to serve the local community?

Montana Credit Unions for Community Development (MCUCD) and High Peaks FCU are teaming up to support a **Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA)** site at 222 S. Pacific in Dillon, and we are now accepting applications for volunteers and training registration!

The **VITA Program** offers free tax help to individuals and families with low-to-moderate income (generally, \$50,000 and below) who cannot prepare their own tax returns. With our FREE training, you become an IRS-Certified volunteer, and help prepare basic tax returns. **VITA** volunteers at High Peaks FCU receive extensive volunteer support from MCUCD before, during, and after tax season – they will be there every step of the way. Best of all, volunteers can choose the FREE training option that suits them best. Choose from over-the-phone training, classroom training and online training.

MCUCD has supported **VITA** sites since 2006 and has experience working with volunteers and taxes state-wide. Last year, 52 volunteers prepared 2,046 tax returns at sites across the state, returning \$1,930,909 to hard working Montanans! For more information on MCUCD, visit [www.MontanaCreditUnions.coop](http://www.MontanaCreditUnions.coop).

If you or someone you know is interested in volunteering at a **VITA** site for this coming tax season, please contact **Rachael Milne** at [rachael@mcun.org](mailto:rachael@mcun.org) or **1-800-745-5546 ext. 142**. **VITA** is a great way to learn something new, help Montanans get ahead financially, and get more involved with High Peaks Federal Credit Union. We hope to hear from you soon!

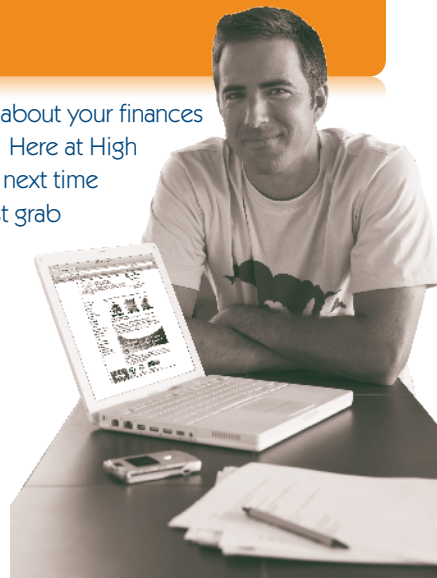
## Stay On Track Online...

Between family, work, errands and chores, it's easy to forget about your finances until you're ready to curl up on the couch or crawl into bed. Here at High Peaks Federal Credit Union, we think you deserve a break, so next time you'd prefer to relax rather than head to the Credit Union, just grab your computer and sit back.

With PC Banking, our online banking system, you can:

- **Check your account balance**
- **View payment and transaction history**
- **Transfer funds**
- **Make loan payments... And MORE!**

Stay home and get online. Visit [www.highpeaksfcu.com](http://www.highpeaksfcu.com) to sign up for PC Banking today.



## MORTGAGE FRAUD What You Should Know...

**There's an old mortgage scam making rounds again.** Aimed at hijacking a mortgage payment or two from unwary homeowners, the scam comes in the form of a letter. Con artists send fraudulent letters telling borrowers they should begin sending their mortgage payments to a fictitious company that has begun servicing their loans. By the time the borrowers find out they've been had, they're out one, maybe even two, payments.

How do you know which letters to trust and which to toss? A valid transfer of mortgage servicing will come to you as follows:

- *First, you will receive a goodbye letter from your current servicer notifying you that as of such-and-such a date, your payment should be sent to a new company.*
- *Within a couple weeks you should receive a welcome letter from the new servicer telling you what your payment is and where to send your payment.*
- *Both letters should include your loan number. If they don't, or the information in one letter does not match the information in the other, contact your original servicer to find out why.*

## Spring Forward, Fall Back Daylight Saving Time Reminder

It's almost time to "fall back" again! Daylight saving time ends **Sunday, November 6 at 2:00 am**. Don't forget to set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

# Teens: Enjoy the Outdoors & Earn Cash Too!



As the summer months come to an end and we enter the cooler months of fall and winter, you may have to say goodbye to some of your outdoor jobs, but that doesn't mean you have to say goodbye to the great outdoors! There are plenty more outdoor jobs that can help you continue to earn additional money for the upcoming holiday season, so don't give up on enjoying the smell of fresh air and the feel of brisk winds on your face. Here are a

few jobs that fit right into the season:

- **YARD WORK.** Fall brings plenty of leaves to rake, lawns to mow, and gardens to winterize. If you're not sure how to winterize a garden, you could offer to help your parents with their gardens first. That way you can offer your services with a little experience under your belt.
- **DOG WALKER.** Dogs always need exercise, no matter what season it is. You could even offer to pet sit for friends, neighbors or relatives who may be planning a vacation.
- **PAPER ROUTE.** Early morning routes are a great way to earn money while keeping the rest of your day free for homework, activities, etc. Plus, you can choose from weekly or daily routes, depending on your availability.
- **SHOVEL SNOW.** Snow doesn't mean the end of outdoor jobs, it creates another one! When the snow arrives, simply invest in a good snow shovel then visit your neighbors to see if they'd like some help.

## To Save Or Not To Save

**It's your future – are you saving for it?** Sure, you have enough money to pay your bills every month, and maybe once you've paid your bills you still have enough money to buy everything you want too. So why save for your future? There are several reasons to start thinking, planning and saving for your near and distant future:

- **Emergencies.** An emergency fund should contain enough money to cover your basic living expenses for three to six months and is important for life's unexpected expenses, such as car repairs, medical bills, or a sudden job loss.
- **Retirement.** Retirement is costly enough without plans to travel or afford "luxury" items, such as a car, plasma TV, or a boat. By saving early, you can actually save more without investing more, thanks to compounding interest.
- **Down Payment On A House.** If you have a sizable down payment saved when you purchase a home, you will have more leverage to negotiate a lower price. Plus, you'll receive better interest rates and be able to afford a bigger home.
- **Vacations.** Saving for vacations is an ideal alternative to financing vacations. That way you won't get stuck making interest payments or paying off your vacation years after you've already enjoyed it.
- **A New Car.** Eliminating car payments from your budget can free up hundreds of dollars each month and save you thousands in interest fees.
- **Sinking Cash.** A sinking cash fund is money you set aside for future repairs or improvements for your home or car. This fund can help you avoid digging into your emergency fund every time a minor unexpected expense arises.
- **Education.** Whether you decide to return to school to further your education or your child heads off to college, saving for educational expenses can help avoid costly student loans that may take years to pay off.



## Holiday Closings

**COLUMBUS DAY**  
Monday, October 10

**VETERAN'S DAY**  
Friday, November 11

**THANKSGIVING**  
Thursday, November 24  
Friday, November 25

**CHRISTMAS**  
(OBSERVED)  
Monday, December 26

## HIGH PEAKS FEDERAL CREDIT UNION

### MAIN OFFICE

222 S. Pacific | P.O. Box 29  
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### WHITEHALL BRANCH

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Whitehall, MT 59759

(406) 287-5496

### SHERIDAN BRANCH

103 S. Main Street | P.O. Box 784  
Sheridan, MT 59749

(406) 842-5372

[www.highpeaksfcu.com](http://www.highpeaksfcu.com)



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National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. Government Agency

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