

EnerGComm

Federal Credit Union

...Your Interest Come First

www.energcomm.org

Butte Office: 2100 Harrison Avenue • Butte, Montana 59701 • (406) 782-2139

October 2006

Colstrip Branch: 421 Willow • Colstrip, Montana 59323 • (406) 748-2324

We Are Your Helping Hand



When you need a helping hand, remember your credit union is here to serve you!

With our great loan rates and low/no fees, we aim to provide you with the very best a financial institution can offer.

Call or stop in today and let us show you how your credit union can work for you. Fast, friendly and outstanding service!

At EnerGComm Federal Credit Union

“Your Interest Come First”

More Than \$60 Billion Just Waiting to be Claimed

With more than \$60 billion in unclaimed property and missing money held by government agencies, it pays to check whether you may be entitled to proceeds from a lost dividend check or forgotten certificate of deposit (*The Wall Street Journal*, June 22).

When contact with an asset's owner is lost, the property is abandoned in the eyes of the law. In most cases there's no time limit for filing claims, but some types of assets are subject to a statute of limitations. Reasons for abandoned property and missing money may be quite simple: a name change after marriage or divorce, unreported change of address, incomplete or illegible records, or clerical errors.

Who's holding the money? According to *unclaimedassets.com*, the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) has \$73 million in unclaimed tax refunds, the Bureau of Public Debt has \$9 billion in unclaimed savings bonds, the Social Security Administration has \$478 million in unclaimed benefit checks, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has \$500 million in unclaimed mortgage refunds, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation has \$80 million in unclaimed pension benefits, and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) has \$200 million in unclaimed bank account funds.

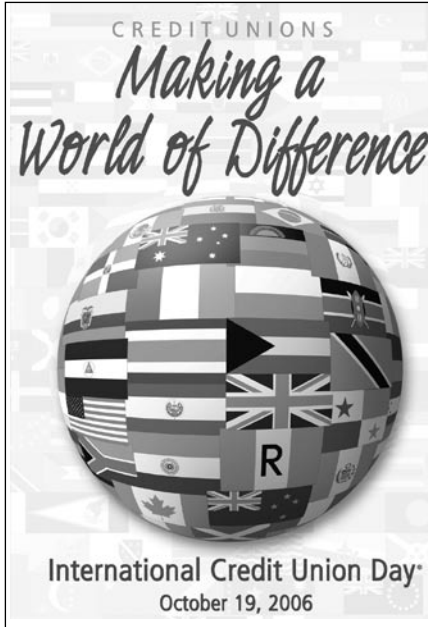
In addition, millions of family members are unaware that they can collect unclaimed assets owed to deceased relatives who didn't leave behind an updated will or detailed map of where assets were located. More than one-quarter of all life insurance policies go unclaimed when family members don't notify the insurance company that a policyholder has died, and no effort is made to find lost beneficiaries.

Fraudsters know there's no national unclaimed database, so don't be fooled by websites that offer memberships or paid access to unclaimed property databases. Professional asset tracers may demand 35% or more for information on unclaimed assets that you can find and claim yourself.

MissingMoney.com has a free, searchable database of unclaimed property records with links to each state's unclaimed-property program. In addition to a link for missing credit union accounts, there are links for missing savings bonds, veteran benefits, accounts at closed banks, inheritance, pension benefits, railroad retirement funds, and more.



Credit Union Day Celebrated Worldwide



For 58 years, credit unions have set aside the third Thursday in October to celebrate International Credit Union Day. Each year, it gives us an opportunity to remember our proud history as we promote understanding and support for the credit union difference.

Member service is the foundation of the credit union movement. Whether a credit union is providing financial access in remote rural communities in Africa, the Middle East, Asia, and Latin America; giving financial counseling to a member; or simply offering a better deal on a used car loan; the credit union is making a difference for its members and its community.

And this difference really makes credit unions stand out. For the 21st consecutive year, credit unions ranked higher than banks and thrifts in “customer satisfaction” in the 2005 American Banker/Gallup Consumer Survey.

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. Please don't hesitate to tell us how we're doing and how we can provide even better service in the future.

In honor of International Credit Union Day, October 19, we will be serving refreshments and will be holding drawings.

We look forward to seeing you!

Do you know:

How much payday loans truly cost?

How to guard against Identity Theft?

What to look for when buying a used car?

Montana's credit unions can help you find the answers to everyday consumer-related issues at www.montanacreditunions.coop—just click on the Montana Credit Union Resource Center. You'll find the information you need to make smart, safe choices for you and your family.

A wide array of topics are covered—taxes, elder care, scams/identity theft, buying and selling a home, child support, wills and estates, public benefits, discrimination, and employee rights—just to name a few!

You will find Montana-specific and up-to-date information and resources, such as how to obtain free legal assistance, do-it-yourself forms, and more. For example, if a landlord is threatening a tenant with eviction, the tenant can find information about renters' rights as well as a directory of legal aid available in the tenant's area.

This web resource is a project of the Montana Legal Services Association, the State Bar of Montana, the Montana Supreme Court Equal Justice Task Force, and Montana's Credit Unions. Visit www.montanacreditunions.coop today to find information to help you make informed choices!



Holiday Closures

November 23 & 24
Thanksgiving Day

December 25 & 26
Christmas Day

January 1
New Years Day

