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TIDBITS



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

- CREDIT CARD CHANGES COMING** 2
- RIBFEST** 4
- ADIRONDACKIN' IN THE BAKKEN** 4
- FINDING PEOPLE, PATTERN & PLACE-** 4

As you probably noticed, I didn't get a newsletter out during the month of June. It was a very busy month and time got away from me. I spent two days in Carrington for training and held a full day Red Cross Babysitter Training the first week. The second week three Williams County 4-H members and I spent three days in Medora on a Pre-Teen Awards trip along with 4-H'ers from three other counties. The second week also took us to a meeting in Stanley to discuss how Extension can help communities with the impact of oil industry business. So- I was in the office two days of the first two weeks. The third week was busy in the office lining up judges and assistants as well as multiple other fair items.

The fair was once again a great success. 4-H members were kept busy with projects, interviews, shows, concession work and lots of fun in between. I hope you were able to view their exhibits at the fair. We have some very talented young people in our county. Many of their projects will be going on to the State Fair. We will have six young ladies participating in the State Fashion Revue and six young people exhibiting at the State 4-H Project Expo on Monday, July 26th. On July 27th several Williams County 4-Her's will be participating in the State Consumer Choices contest. Several 4-H members are planning to take their livestock projects to the State Fair also. We will be very well represented!

Thank you to members of Bakers Dozen Homemakers for your help at the UMV Fair. Several members served as judges assistants for the 4-H project interviews on Monday. I greatly appreciated the help and I think that they enjoyed working with the judges and youth as well. I also saw a couple of them helping out in the 4-H concession stand- doing some grandparent duty. We have a very hard time filling all of the time slots in the concessions stand since much of the time is during the week when parents are working. The concession stand is a major source of income for the 4-H council.

I hope that you have looked at the website to see some pictures from the spring council meeting in the slideshow on the homepage. Newsletters are also archived there..

Mary



CALENDAR

- July 2-3 Hometown Williston Celebration- & BLAST XXI
- July 23-31 ND State Fair, Minot
- July 30 Relay for Life - Cutting Field, Williston

CREDIT CARD CHANGES COMING AUGUST 22

The Federal Reserve's [new rules for credit card companies](#) mean new credit card protections for you. Here are some key changes you should expect from your credit card company beginning on February 22, 2010:

What your credit card company has to tell you

When they plan to increase your rate or other fees. Your credit card company must send you a notice 45 days before they can

- increase your interest rate;
- change certain fees (such as annual fees, cash advance fees, and late fees) that apply to your account; or
- make other significant changes to the terms of your card.

If your credit card company is going to make changes to the terms of your card, it must give you the option to cancel the card before certain fee increases take effect. If you take that option, however, your credit card company may close your account and increase your monthly payment, subject to certain limitations.

For example, they can require you to pay the balance off in five years, or they can double the percentage of your balance used to calculate your minimum payment (which will result in faster repayment than under the terms of your account).

The company does **not** have to send you a 45-day advance notice if

- you have a variable interest rate tied to an index; if the index goes up, the company does not have to provide notice before your rate goes up;
- your introductory rate expires and reverts to the previously disclosed "go-to" rate;
- your rate increases because you are in a workout agreement and you haven't made your payments as agreed.

How long it will take to pay off your balance. Your monthly credit card bill will include information on how long it will take you to pay off your balance if you only make minimum payments. It will also tell you how much you would need to pay each month in order to pay off your balance in three years.

New rules regarding rates, fees, and limits

No interest rate increases for the first year. Your credit card company cannot increase your rate for the first 12 months after you open an account. There are some exceptions:

- If your card has a variable interest rate tied to an index; your rate can go up whenever the index goes up.
- If there is an introductory rate, it must be in place for at least 6 months; after that your rate can revert to the "go-to" rate the company disclosed when you got the card.
- If you are more than 60 days late in paying your bill, your rate can go up.
- If you are in a workout agreement and you don't make your payments as agreed, your rate can go up.



More new rules from the Federal Reserve mean more credit card protections for you. Here are some key changes you should expect from your credit card company beginning on August 22, 2010.



- **Increased rates apply only to new charges.** If your credit card company does raise your interest rate after the first year, the new rate will apply only to new charges you make. If you have a balance, your old interest rate will apply to that balance.
- **Restrictions on over-the-limit transactions.** You must tell your credit card company that you want it to allow transactions that will take you over your credit limit. Otherwise, if a transaction would take you over your limit, it may be turned down. If you do not opt-in to over-the-limit transactions and your credit card company allows one to go through, it cannot charge you an over-the-limit fee.
 - If you opt-in to allowing transactions that take you over your credit limit, your credit card company can impose only one fee per billing cycle. You can revoke your opt-in at any time.
- **Caps on high-fee cards.** If your credit card company requires you to pay fees (such as an annual fee or application fee), those fees cannot total more than 25% of the initial credit limit. For example, if your initial credit limit is \$500, the fees for the first year cannot be more than \$125. This limit does not apply to penalty fees, such as penalties for late payments.
- **Protections for underage consumers.** If you are under 21, you will need to show that you are able to make payments, or you will need a cosigner, in order to open a credit card account.
 - If you are under age 21 and have a card with a cosigner and want an increase in the credit limit, your cosigner must agree in writing to the increase.

Changes to billing and payments

- **Standard payment dates and times.** Your credit card company must mail or deliver your credit card bill at least 21 days before your payment is due. In addition:
 - Your due date should be the same date each month (for example, your payment is always due on the 15th or always due on the last day of the month).
 - The payment cut-off time cannot be earlier than 5 p.m. on the due date.
 - If your payment due date is on a weekend or holiday (when the company does not process payments), you will have until the following business day to pay. (For example, if the due date is Sunday the 15th, your payment will be on time if it is received by Monday the 16th before 5 p.m.).
- **Payments directed to highest interest balances first.** If you make more than the minimum payment on your credit card bill, your credit card company must apply the excess amount to the balance with the highest interest rate. There is an exception:
 - If you made a purchase under a deferred interest plan (for example, "no interest if paid in full by March 2012"), the credit card company may let you choose to apply extra amounts to the deferred interest balance before other balances. Otherwise, for two billing cycles prior to the end of the deferred interest period, the credit card company must apply your entire payment to the deferred interest-rate balance first.
- **No two-cycle (double-cycle) billing.** Credit card companies can only impose interest charges on balances in the current billing cycle.



"go-to" rate

interest rate you are charged after the introductory rate

Index

an economic indicator used to calculate interest-rate adjustments

opt in

giving your credit card company permission to include you in a particular service

workout

agreement

a type of debt management plan

annual percentage rate (APR)

for credit cards, the APR is the cost of credit expressed as a yearly interest rate. Each billing period (usually about a month), the company charges a fraction of the annual rate, called the periodic rate.

penalty fees

fees charged if you violate the terms of your cardholder agreement or other requirements related to your account. For example, your credit card company may charge a penalty fee if you make a late payment or if you exceed your credit limit.

RIBFEST— Friday, July 2

Cooking all day

Tasting 5:30pm

If you live in Williston and read this newsletter on Friday when you get it, you will still have time to come to downtown Williston for the Ribfest. I will be BBQ'ing ribs for the Safe Communities Committee, so come down for a taste— and of course vote for the People's Choice Award! I will be demonstrating at 12:00 noon, also.

Main Street, downtown Williston is the place to be as teams gather to compete in Williston's Rockin' Ribfest! New to the 2010 Ribfest will be more award categories, Rockin' Ribfest t-shirts, rib cooking demonstrations, local musical entertainment, and a beer garden. The beer garden will be separate to maintain a backyard BBQ atmosphere for the entire family. Ribbers will begin rib prep and cooking anytime after 7:00 a.m., be ready for judging at 5:00 p.m. and serving to the public at 5:30 p.m. Musical entertainment will begin at 3:45 p.m. Admission to the Ribfest is free. Ribs are sold for \$1.00 per rib and side dishes will be available for a free will offering.



"Adirondackin' In the Bakken"

Be at Harmon Park at 1:00 pm for Bethel's Adirondack Chair Auction. Parkway Gals have decorated and donated a chair. What a great community project. Congratulations Gals!

This is a project of the Bethel Lutheran Foundation and supports Bethel Lutheran Home.



"Finding People, Pattern and Place—a North Dakota Textiles Project"

Lecture: July 6, 2010 at 12:00 noon

Serving Refreshments



STITCHING GROUPS MEET
July 6 & 7— 1:00—4:00 pm
July 8— 5:00—8:00 pm

No stitching experience is necessary and everyone is invited!

(men, women and children of any age to work with a needle)

This would be a great way for families to record a bit of their heritage.

James Memorial Art Center
621 First Avenue West, Williston, ND