

CURRENTS



Dear Member,

BREAST CANCER is nothing to cheer about. More than 10,000 Mississippians fought the disease last year, and Singing River Federal is joining their fight. Our **2nd Annual Bras Across the River** event will stretch thousands of bras across the beautiful Moss Point bridge – and we'll donate \$1 for every bra to breast cancer research. Bring your extra bras to any SRFCU branch, and we'll see you on the bridge on **Saturday, October 20th!**

Emily Delaluz of Lucedale was cheering when she heard she'd won an Apple iPad2 in our instant-issue debit card campaign. A Spanish translator for George Regional Health System, Delaluz says she was "in complete shock!"

You might be shocked too – our new instant-issue debit cards **print in less than two minutes** and give you immediate access to your money. Lose your card? Is it damaged? Just drop by any branch and we'll print a new one! You can also choose from multiple custom designs. How easy is that?

While you're there, make an appointment with one of our **Certified Financial Counselors**. They're specially trained and ready to review your credit report to help diagnose potential problems and offer money-saving options. In fact, if they can't find a way to save you money, **they'll pay you \$50**. See page 2 for details.

And what would Christmas be without helping others? This year, SRFCU will donate **\$5 to Our Daily Bread** for every Christmas loan. It's the perfect way to share prosperity during the holiday season. See *page 3 for details*.

You see, there's more to us than just great financial products and services. We're not here to just make loans – **we're here to make a difference**, for you and our community. **Come join us at the river.**

Sincerely,

James B. Smith Jr., President/CEO



Emily Delaluz, left, is awarded her new Apple iPad2 by SRFCU President/CEO Jimmy Smith.

7 reasons

to join a credit union

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Christmas loans that

make a difference

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Life's better at the river.



7 reasons you should join a credit union

Credit union
members
saved an
average of
\$136 per
household
last year
nationwide.

Credit Union National
Association, April, 2011

► **Lower rates on loans**

Credit union rates are much lower, according to DataTrac, a national interest rate-tracking service – an average 1.5 to 2.0 percentage points lower than comparable loans from banks.

► **Higher rates on savings**

The same study mentioned above shows savings rates higher by .2 to 1.0 percentage points on various types of savings accounts.

► **Better credit card deals**

According to the Pew Health Group, “In general, the largest credit unions offered lower rates than did the largest banks... approximately 20 percent lower than comparable bank rates.” Credit union credit cards also tend to have lower credit card fees and fewer of them.

► **Easier to borrow**

Says Fred R. Becker, Jr., president and CEO of the aforementioned National Association of Federal Credit Unions: “While banks were tightening their commercial lending, credit unions member business loans have increased nearly 17 percent since September 2008.” And while few national banks would make signature loans, credit unions routinely offer this service to their members with good credit.

► **Convenience**

Credit unions have outstanding online, phone, and in-person services. Many credit unions belong to a shared branching network that allows members of one credit union to conduct business at any other member credit union anywhere in the country.

► **Lower fees**

Whether it's fees to maintain a checking account, foreign ATM fees, or penalty fees for overdrawing your account, credit unions are usually lower.

► **Human beings answer the phone**

Do you really want to call some national customer service number to get a problem resolved? Credit unions are typically smaller, so should you have a problem, odds are much greater that you'll be talking to live person much sooner.

► **How do you join?**

If you live, work, worship or attend school in Jackson, George or Greene counties in Mississippi, or in Mobile and Baldwin counties in Alabama, you are eligible for SRFCU membership! Call **228-475-9531** or visit www.srfcu.org today.



We'll save you money, or we'll pay you.

Do you have healthy credit? Come to Singing River Federal and sit down with one of our Certified Financial Counselors. We'll review your credit situation and help you diagnose potential problems.

It's free and fast. We'll pull your credit report and review it together to see where we can save you money on a loan or credit card you have from

another financial institution. If we can't save you money, **we'll pay you \$50!***

An appointment is required, so call your favorite SRFCU branch today.

*Appointment required. Offer valid September 17 - October 31, 2012 and subject to change without notice. Limit one financial review per person. Documented approval to pull credit report required, for the purpose of loan review or the request of credit. To qualify for a credit report pull, must be a current member or must be eligible for membership. \$50 to be awarded via Visa gift card, if applicable. Other restrictions apply, listed at www.srfcu.org. All loans subject to approval based on credit. Photo: Marcin Krawczyk



NEW TEAM MEMBERS

Luke Tharp is a new full-time Floater Teller.

MILESTONES

Congratulations to the following team members, who celebrate two years of service: **Matt Jackson, Esther Ray, Jason Jordan, Barbara Law and Paul Thompson.** **Chris Warren** celebrates three years of service, and **Angela Brown and Tonya Parnell** celebrate four years. **Shawna Caver** celebrates eight years of service, and **Tommy George and Allison Sanders** celebrate nine years. **Tim McLeod** celebrates 12 years of service; **Nancy Dickerson** celebrates 13 years; and **Jimmy Smith**, President/CEO celebrates 19 years. **Great job!**

\$5 to Our Daily Bread with every Christmas loan



- Up to **\$2,500***
- Special rate of **9.99% APR**
- **12-month term**

What does Christmas mean to you? For us it means giving you a great loan offer and giving back to our community at the same time. Come to Singing River Federal from **November 12 through December 21** and help us help others.

Plus, for every approved Christmas loan, Singing River Federal will give **\$5 to Our Daily Bread.*** Our gift to you? Helping make the most of your Christmas season. Your gift to others? A taste of kindness, compassion and hope.

Christmas means more at the river.

*Loan subject to completed application and approval based on credit worthiness. Membership required. APR: Annual Percentage Rate. Loan may not be refinanced or extended. Offer valid only from November 12-December 21, 2012. Terms subject to change without notice. Maximum donation of \$1,500 to Our Daily Bread.

FINANCIAL SELF DEFENSE:

Avoid Unlicensed Contractors

It happens all too often - someone will knock on your door, mention something about your house that may need work, and they'll offer to do it at a cost that seems too good to be true. They'll often tell you they were working in the area anyway, which is why the job will be so cheap.

The simplest thing to do is **ask for their license number**. If they can't give it to you, or claim to be "working under someone else's license," don't let them touch a thing.

Also, **ensure the contractor gets a permit** for any construction projects or anything that involves digging. Legitimate contractors will normally arrange for the permits themselves. If they ask you to get the permit, consider that a red flag. It may be they are no longer welcome at the permit office - or they don't have the cash to get a permit. Either way, it doesn't bode well.

Save now for your child's future

Save up to \$2,000 per year for a child with a Coverdell education savings account (ESA). When you contribute to an ESA for the child in your life, you make contributions with after-tax dollars. Those dollars will grow and can be withdrawn tax-free when used for qualified education expenses. Certain income limits apply.

For more information about ESAs, please contact one of our representatives at **228-475-9531** or visit our website at www.srfcu.org. Let us help you with your ESA needs today.



Looking for our most current interest rates? **Visit www.srfcu.org**



Annual Meeting notification

The Board of Directors in a duly called meeting on August 16, 2011, issued a call to all members of Singing River Federal Credit Union to attend the **60th Annual Membership Meeting** to be held **Tuesday, March 5, 2013** at **Pelican Landing Conference Center** in Pascagoula. Doors will open at 6:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 7:00 pm.

The Nominating Committee will nominate members to serve one three year term, unless there are members nominated by petition. Should there be nominations by petition, ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters 30 days prior to the general membership meeting. Those ballots must be returned by February 28, 2013. Ballots will not be accepted at the Annual Meeting. If there are no nominations by petition, ballots will not be mailed.

Nominations by Petition: Persons desiring to run for a position on the Board of Directors may do so by securing the signatures of no less than one percent, or no more than 500 SRFCU members on a petition. The petition, a signed agreement to serve if elected, a statement of qualifications, and a short biography must be submitted to the credit union secretary 40 days before the annual meeting. Therefore, the deadline for qualifying by petition will be January 24, 2013.

If there is only one candidate for each position, the chair may declare each nominee elected by general consent, or by acclamation.

Sincerely,

Bettie Concannon

Secretary, SRFCU Board of Directors



Which bills to pay first?

Q: *My spouse got laid off and I need to make payments on all our bills, but I can't. What should be paid, what can I push off, and is there anything I can do to get more time from my creditors?*

A: Once you've paid for basic food and necessary medical expenses, your first priority is the roof over your head. Not paying rent, mortgage, homeowners insurance or property tax could mean you'll soon be without that roof. If your house payment is unmanageable, consider trading down or moving in with family temporarily.

The next priority is utilities. You don't want these to be shut off, especially if you have children in the house. You can always conserve by being careful to shut off lights and turning down the heat/air conditioning as much as possible. If you've fallen

behind on utility bills, call the company, explain the situation, and come up with a payment plan.

Next is your auto insurance. If you need your car to get to work, this might be even more important than your housing, so take that into consideration.

Child support, student loans, and taxes also need to be paid. After that, most debt is low priority. That doesn't mean you don't have to pay it, but the consequences of not doing so are not as bad as defaulting on your mortgage. Call your creditors, explain the situation, and show that you're serious about repaying them.

And don't forget about Singing River Federal. Talk to us about your situation. We may be able to help you reduce or eliminate unnecessary payments and develop some short-term ways to provide budgetary relief so you can better fulfill your financial commitments. Call us at **228-475-9531**.

SRFCU Upcoming Holiday Closings

November 22 and 23: Thanksgiving

December 24, 25 and 26: Christmas

January 1, 2013: New Year's



Board of Directors

Stuart White, *Chairman*

Dederia Demouey,

Vice Chairman

Bettie Concannon, *Secretary*

Pete Fairley, *Treasurer*

Walter Greene

Michael Harvey

Brian Hughey

Jimmy Massey

Edwina Williams

Moss Point Branch

P.O. Box 8685

Moss Point, MS 39562

6006 Highway 63

Moss Point, MS 39563

Office: 228-475-9531

Fax: 228-475-5919

Toll Free: 888-474-0080

Lucedale Branch

201 Scott Road

Lucedale, MS 39452

Office: 601-947-4578

Fax: 601-947-9401

Toll Free: 888-947-7732

Pascagoula Branch

3210 Market Street

Pascagoula, MS 39567

Office: 228-762-7878

Fax: 228-762-8325

Mobile, AL Branch

6151 Airport Boulevard

Mobile, AL 36608

Office: 251-544-5600

Fax: 251-544-5620

Hours of Operation

(All Branches)

Mon., Tues., Thurs. & Fri.

After Hours Loan Center

866-564-0875

VISA® Debit Card

Lost or Stolen

800-262-2024

VISA® Credit Card

Lost or Stolen

800-991-4964



www.srfcu.org