

# FINANCIAL BEAT

Billings  
Health  
Affiliated



April 2007 Newsletter

## BHAFCU = Convenience

Stay connected with your Credit Union, no matter where you are. Access your accounts to transact business, apply for loans, deposit your paycheck, transfer to your savings accounts, make purchases, or just to get a little extra cash for the weekend. Ask any credit union member service representative to set you up for convenience with all of these services:

On-line Banking	Automatic Transfer/Payroll Deduction
Audio Response	Debit Cards
Direct Deposit	ATM Cards

## What's in a Number?

Your credit score could be the single most important number to you in today's economic environment. Fair Isaac Corp created the most widely used credit score, your FICO score. Here is how the credit score measures your credit risk to a potential lender.

1. Payment history: 35%. This is the big one, and the most important of all five categories. The worst thing a consumer can do is make a payment late, or not make a payment at all.
2. Capacity: 30%. "Capacity" is simply the amount owed. The less owed the better the credit score will be. It is in a member's best interest to keep balances low on all revolving credit accounts.
3. Length of Credit History: 15%. Generally, lenders look for applicants with long credit histories. Lenders may think twice about a new credit applicant who does not have a positive payment history or no payment history at all.
4. Types of Credit: 10%. 10% of your FICO score is determined by a mix such as credit cards, mortgage or consumer finance accounts. The more balanced between secured and unsecured, the better.
5. New Accounts: 10%. This factor reviews the number of new credit accounts opened, how long open, number of recent requests for credit, and the length of time since your credit was pulled.

To order a free credit report—you are entitled to one free report annually—call 1-877-322-8228, visit [www.annualcreditreport.com](http://www.annualcreditreport.com), or mail a request form to Annual Credit Report Request Service, PO Box 105281, Atlanta, GA 30348-5281.

## Have YOU seen Bob?

In March, Montana's credit unions launched a statewide cooperative media campaign,

*Montana's Credit Unions: The Difference YOU* featuring Bob the Credit Union Guy. You'll recognize Bob by his distinctive blue badge, emblazoned with *YOU*. He can be spotted talking to folks about the credit union difference as they go about their daily routines.

As Bob says in the TV and radio ads: "We're not for profit, we're for you!" and "You own the place!" Your credit union really is all about *YOU*!

MONTANA'S CREDIT UNIONS  
THE DIFFERENCE  
[www.you.coop](http://www.you.coop)



## Is a Home Improvement Project in Your Future?

Now that it's Springtime in the Rockies, homeowners' thoughts turn to home improvement. Patios, decks, spas, a bigger kitchen, a finished recreation room in the basement are tops on the list in anticipation of summer and more family funtime.

Before you start calling contractors, a smart move would be to visit the loan department at Billings Health Affiliated FCU. We can help you structure the loan that is right for you and your project. Our Home Equity Line of Credit offers you access to your funds when you want them and in the amount you want (up to the limit established in your account). As you pay back the loan, the funds are once again made available to you if you need them. There is no need to re-apply.

By using the equity in your home to secure the loan, the interest you pay is, in most cases, tax deductible. (Check with your tax advisor on the deductibility of interest on home equity loans.)

Stop by or call your credit union today and let us help make those dreams a reality with a home improvement loan.

## Disneyland sounds like fun!

See the coast, take a cruise, visit Glacier Park, or just hang around town. Our vacation loan special kicks off on May 1. Watch your April statement and our website, [www.bhafcu.com](http://www.bhafcu.com), for more details in late April

# Not Too Late for a 2006 IRA

The calendar may be closed on 2006, but it's still not too late to open or contribute to your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) for the 2006 tax year. It's a great investment in your future. And if you open an IRA before April 16, you may be eligible to receive some deduction benefits for tax year 2006.

Let's look at the biggest benefit of an IRA. You do not pay any taxes on interest earned on your IRA until you begin withdrawing the money at retirement. An added "kicker" for many individuals opening an IRA is that part (or sometimes even all) of their annual IRA contribution is tax-deductible. You should talk with a qualified tax consultant on whether your contribution can be deducted.

An IRA is a great idea for most anyone. But if you qualify for the "kicker," you should run—not walk—down to BHAFUCU before April 16, 2007 and open a 2006 IRA.

## Upgrade your PC

Is your PC running a little slow these days? *CAN'T* support all the new graphics, *CAN'T* burn DVD's, *CAN'T* download a file in less than 15 minutes, *CAN'T* stand that little, tiny monitor one more day? Billings Health Affiliated FCU *CAN* help you move to the next level of personal computing with our special computer loans. We offer a variety of terms and rates to match your needs. Call the credit union or log on to our website at [www.bhafcu.com](http://www.bhafcu.com) to apply for your computer loan today.



### SHORT CUTS FOR WINDOWS

Ctrl-a	Select all
Ctrl-b	<b>BOLD</b> on /off
Ctrl-I	<i>ITALICS</i> on/off
Ctrl-u	<u>UNDERLINE</u> on/off
Ctrl-c	Copy
Ctrl-f	Find text/data in file
Ctrl-n	New document
Ctrl-o	Open a new document
Ctrl-p	Print
Ctrl-s	Save
Ctrl-v	Paste
Ctrl-x	Cut
Ctrl-z	Undo
F1	Help
F5	GoTo
F7	Spell Check
F12	Save as



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"Caring for your financial health"

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## LOAN RATES

Signature Loan ..... 12.50% APR\*  
Share Secured Loans ..... 5.00% APR\*  
Half & Half Loans ..... 8.50% APR\*  
VISA Credit Card ..... 12.50% APR\*  
New & Used Autos  
up to 72 months ..... 6.75-7.25% APR\*  
\*Annual Percentage Rate

## DIVIDEND RATES

	Rate	APY*
Regular Shares .....	.50%	0.501%
Share Draft Checking .....	.25%	0.250%
Christmas Club .....	1.25%	1.257%
IRA Savings Acct. ....	1.50%	1.510%
High Yield Savings (tiered rate)		
\$2,500-19,999.99 .....	1.25%	1.257%
\$20,000-49,999.99 .....	1.50%	1.510%
\$50,000-99,999.99 .....	1.75%	1.764%
\$100,000 & Over .....	2.25%	2.273%
Share Certificates & IRA Certificates		
3 month .....	4.00%	4.074%
6 month .....	5.00%	5.116%
12 month .....	5.10%	5.220%
30 month .....	5.15%	5.273%

\*\*Dividend rates in effect as of 3-16-07. Dividend rates subject to change without notice. APY represents annual percentage yield when dividends remain on deposit for monthly compounding. A penalty will be imposed for early withdrawal on Share Certificate accounts. Contact the Credit Union for more information about dividend rates and fees.



\$3.95/set

\$7.50/set



## Montana Quarters and Presidential Dollars Now Available

BHAFUCU is participating in a fundraiser for Montana Credit Unions for Community Development. All proceeds from the sale of Montana State Quarter Collections and the Presidential Dollar Series go directly to support this worthy cause, whose mission is "to implement programs through Montana Credit Unions that improve the social and economic well-being of Montana Consumers." Stop in the credit union or check out [bhafcu.com](http://bhafcu.com) to see the collection of items available.

## MEMORIAL DAY

Monday, May 28, 2007

Your Credit Union will be closed in honor of our fallen brothers and sisters.