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Help MPECU--Join GREAT!

The GrassRoots Education & Action Team (GREAT) is an online tool used to communicate credit union issues to state and federal legislators. GREAT is coordinated by MPECU, the Minnesota Credit Union Network, and powered by Minnesota credit union employees, volunteers, and members. GREAT provides credit union supporters a way to help preserve, protect and promote Minnesota credit unions.

Won't you join us?

The credit union model is unique in the financial services marketplace: Credit unions are not for profit, member-owned, local, and trusted. Through quality service, fairly priced products, and financial education, what we offer to our members is worth advocating for. State and federal legislation and regulations directly affect how you conduct your financial business: Credit unions are a highly regulated industry. Competition in the financial services marketplace, consumer protections and rules, and the product and services that MPECU can offer are directly affected by legislators and policymakers. It's important that you, as a credit union member, have a voice.

It does not matter what your political affiliation is: GREAT's goal is simply to create an environment for credit unions to thrive and grow. Legislators and regulators across the political spectrum need to hear from us.

So how does it work?

There is no time or monetary commitment to joining GREAT: Occasionally, GREAT members will be asked to contact their elected officials by email about a particular issue related to the credit union movement. This task can be completed in about five clicks of the mouse.

Receive sample communications to send: With each email, GREAT members receive a sample message to use when communicating with elected officials. (We'll even help you determine who they are if you are unsure.) Supporters can use this template to quickly and easily send a message to lawmakers.

Join other supporters in sharing the credit union difference with elected officials. By participating in GREAT, you ensure credit union members throughout the state have a strong, unified voice when legislative and regulatory decisions are being made.

How do I sign up?

Simply visit www.greatcreditunions.org and complete the information in the "Quick Sign up" box.



We're Open!

The new office is completely full-service--from tellers to loan officers, we can handle it all. We're here 8 am until 5 pm, Monday through Friday. So, when you're down on the west side of Superior Street--stop in!

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COMING SOON--WINcentive!

WINcentive™ Savings is a new prize-linked savings account at Minnesota Power Employees Credit Union. WINcentive Savings offers prize drawing entries in return for each time you increase your savings balance by \$25 (up to 4 entries per month)*. Prize drawings occur monthly, quarterly and annually – so the more you save, the more chances you have to win! You could even end up winning the grand prize of \$5,000!

Is saving money a challenge? If you are struggling to save, consider the WINcentive Savings account. You can improve your money habits in a whole new way that actually makes saving FUN. You'll feel rewarded by watching your savings grow, and experience the excitement of the prize drawings! And unlike playing the lottery, you don't lose anything with WINcentive Savings. All of the money you deposit into the account is yours!

Don't miss your chance. We'll be offering WINcentive™ Savings in early August!

*See MPECU for complete terms, conditions, and official rules. Federally insured by NCUA.

Setting Up a Business Credit File

The first step to managing your business's credit

Starting a new business is an exciting prospect and a constant learning experience, forcing you to rapidly tackle new challenges and master new skills. One of these new skills is managing your business's credit, and the first step is to set up a business credit file.

Your business's credit file will be maintained with the credit bureau Dun & Bradstreet, which functions similarly to the personal credit bureaus Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. Just as you or a potential lender can use one of these credit bureaus to learn about your past financial activities and creditworthiness, your business credit file can be used by potential vendors, suppliers, business partners or customers to assess whether or not they feel your business is reliable and financially stable.

The first step you should take on your journey to building good business credit is to ensure that you don't already have a business credit file, which may have been established if you applied for financing as a business entity. You can do this by calling 877-636-7137 to speak with a representative, or you can send a message through the D&B customer service contact form at

<http://www.dnb.com/utility-pages/customer-service.html>.

"If, when you call or visit the D&B website, you determine that you already have a business credit file, review it completely to understand what information it contains," states the U.S. Small Business Administration. "Add or modify the information as necessary to ensure that those looking at your business credit (such as vendors, suppliers and financial institutions) are making decisions based on complete and accurate information."

You can request a copy for review at <https://iupdate.dnb.com/iUpdate/viewiUpdateHome.htm>.

If you need to establish a business credit file, you first need to apply for a D-U-N-S number, which is a unique nine-digit identifying number that can be referenced by outside sources to connect them with your file. After you make your request, you should receive your number within 30 days. If you need to establish a credit file sooner than that, you can pay for expedited service, which takes five business days or less.

"If you want to bid on government proposals, you will need to get a D-U-N-S number for each physical location of your business," states the D&B website. "You can get your D-U-N-S number expedited for free if you are required to register with the federal government for contracts or grants."

You need the following information to register for a free D-U-N-S number:

- Whether or not your business is home-based.
- Your business's legal name.
- Your physical address.
- The name and address of your business's headquarters.
- Any mailing address you have aside from the headquarters/physical address.
- A telephone number.



- A contact name and title.
- The number of employees at your business's physical location.
- Any other name that your business uses, such as a "doing business as" or DBA name.

Once your credit file is set up, you can get started building a good credit history that testifies to your business's creditworthiness and sets the stage for positive future financial opportunities.

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5 Books to Enjoy on Your Beach Vacation

Dive into these books this summer while you're having fun in the sun

Beach vacations are a time to relax and enjoy life, while taking in the sun and the sea. It's because of the beach's relaxing atmosphere that makes it the perfect place to enjoy a good book this summer.

While you are enjoying your time with your toes in the sand, consider reading one of these five books that are perfect for your beach vacation.

"The Outlander" by Diana Gabaldon

There's nothing better to fight the heat than a book that takes place in Scotland. "The Outlander" by Diana Gabaldon is one of the most popular novels in contemporary literature, and for good reason. This novel is set in the Scottish Highlands in 1945, when Claire Randall, a former British combat nurse, finds herself transported back to the Highlands circa 1743. It is a time of intrigue and rebellion, which causes a multitude of problems for Claire, the least of which is being forced to marry Jamie Fraser, a young Scottish warrior.



"Truly Madly Guilty" by Liane Moriarty

Liane Moriarty has had multiple top-ranked books on New York Times' Bestsellers List for good reason. Her novels offer a humorous outlook on everyday life, while providing a sense of suspense that cannot be beat. Her newest book, "Truly Madly Guilty," will be released on July 26, just in time for your beach vacation. Moriarty's perfect combination of humor and spot-on observations about modern life will leave any reader entranced.

"Treasure Island" by Robert Louis Stevenson

For a classic beach read, look no further than Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island". This novel might have been published in 1883, but it still offers modern day readers the perfect escape from the real world. The book follows young Jim Hawkins as he travels the seas in a series of swashbuckling adventures. While it might be geared more towards a younger audience, even adults will find pleasure reliving the exciting adventures of pirates, treasure and the sea.

"Harry Potter and the Cursed Kid" by J.K. Rowling

The beloved "Harry Potter" series might have ended with its eighth book, but author J.K. Rowling is looking to offer series lovers another glimpse into the world of magic through "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child". Though this book is a play script, rather than a traditional novel, it allows readers to delve into Harry Potter's life after he graduates from Hogwarts. Set for release on July 31, this play is the perfect way to stay relaxed while sitting in the sun.

"Me Before You: A Novel" by Jojo Moyes

Quickly becoming the love story of the current generation, "Me Before You" focuses on the life of Louisa Clark, an ordinary woman who has an ordinary life—until she begins working for Will Traynor, a man who once had everything at his fingertips, only to lose it all after an accident. This novel has recently been made into a film of the same name, which makes it even more appealing for a beach read. After all, there's nothing better than reading the book after seeing the movie to discover the

differences between the two.

Relax even more during your beach vacation and take the time to read one of these great books. Each of these books offers its own literary adventure, making them the perfect way to let your mind stress-free while on vacation.

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Which Brands Lease the Most?

A unique look at leasing

Everyone has an opinion on whether you should buy or lease your next vehicle. Leasing a vehicle gives you a new ride every 24–48 months, with controllable payments, but only financing allows you to truly own your vehicle after all is said and done.

A March 2016 article in *Car and Driver* magazine used research from IHS Automotive to determine which brands have the highest lease rates.

Smart, Maserati and Infiniti are at the top of the list with 80 percent, 74 percent and 64 percent, respectively. Following close behind are BMW, Jaguar and Lexus with 57 percent, then Lincoln and Mercedes-Benz with 53 percent. Rolls Royce and Audi check in at 51 percent and 50 percent, respectively.

You're probably thinking, 'Lease a Rolls Royce?' But a new Wraith can be yours for around \$30,000 down and \$4,000 per month for 48 months.

Overall, the small luxury sedans (think BMW 3 Series, Infiniti Q50 and Audi A4) make up for about 60 percent of these leases, and more than 50 percent of all luxury sedans are leased. Why are leases for luxury sedans so popular? It's the convenience of having a new car with smaller upfront costs.

"Luxury brands make the bulk of their profits from them," according to the magazine. "Turn in the old car, throw down a few grand, and poof! There's a new Mercedes E350 wearing your old license plate. Many off-lease cars are remarketed as certified pre-owned; leasing one perpetuates a cycle that keeps profits humming and monthly checks outflowing."

On the opposite end of the spectrum, leasing an Alfa Romeo, a Ferrari or even a Mitsubishi is a rare occurrence with 1, 4 and 8 percent of all models leased out.

Leasing is also far more common in the Northeast, with New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island and Massachusetts accounting for seven of the top 10 states with the highest leasing percentages. Michigan holds the highest rate, at 59 percent. Florida and California (tied at 32 percent) and Ohio round out the top 10. Arkansas holds the designation as the state with the lowest lease rate, only 2 percent, and Alaska and Oklahoma each check in with only 4 percent of all new vehicles being leased.

Leasing is always a good option if you don't have a large amount of capital to pay upfront. But if you're looking for a new vehicle, or if you simply want to know how much car you can afford, stop by and see what financing options we have for you so you can shop with confidence.



Natural Remedies to Relieve Sunburn

Soothe a sunburn with these holistic remedies

Summer is a time of fun in the sun, but sometimes this fun can have negative consequences.

If sunscreen isn't applied well enough while you are outside, it can result in a nasty sunburn. Even if sunscreen has been applied, sunburn can still happen. So what can be done to help relieve the itching and pain? To help soothe sunburn, keep these five natural remedies in mind.

Witch hazel

Witch hazel is a known natural astringent, capable of providing long-lasting anti-inflammatory relief. Prevention.com suggests using this remedy often on the inflamed area to reduce the amount of pain and swelling caused by the sunburn. For smaller areas, simply dip cotton balls into the liquid and dab it onto the sunburn gently. If the sunburnt area is larger, moisten a cloth with the witch hazel and lay it over the burn.



Diluted apple cider vinegar

There is a simple apple cider vinegar mixture that can reduce the pain of sunburn drastically.

Because of apple cider vinegar's astringent qualities, it is the perfect natural solution to soothe sunburnt skin and is incredibly easy to make. Combine one cup of apple cider vinegar with one cup of water. Pour the mixture into a spray bottle and spray the affected area to cool the burn.

Aloe

Many people know of aloe's ability to soothe burns, but they typically turn to the store-bought gels and oils rather than the natural source. Instead of heading out to the store to purchase aloe, consider using your own aloe plant. Simply break off a leaf of the plant and squeeze the gel-like liquid onto the sunburn. Then, gently rub it in until it is evenly spread across it. The relief should be almost instantaneous. If you don't happen to have an aloe plant around, WellnessMama.com suggests looking for an aloe gel that has no preservatives to reduce the amount of chemical exposure.

Peppermint oil

If the sunburnt skin isn't blistered, the Farmer's Almanac suggests applying peppermint oil to the sunburn. The holistic nature of peppermint will cool the skin, reducing the amount of pain the burn causes. Use a peppermint infusion for the best relief results, rather than a concentrate.

Lavender

Lavender is a useful herb to have around the house, as it can be used in many ways. Not only is it known for its calming influences, but this plant can also be used in many ways to soothe sunburnt skin. Add lavender oil to a cool bath to soothe a large sun-burnt area. The lavender oil can also be mixed with water in a spray bottle to create a calming remedy. Just mix together one cup of water with about 20 to 25 drops of lavender oil in a spray bottle, then spray it on the affected areas.

Sunburn can be painful, but you can easily fight the pain with these helpful natural remedies. Using these natural resources will soothe the burn, while giving you peace of mind.

