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The Triple Jingle Loan is Back!

By popular demand the Triple Jingle Promotion is Back! If you've been a member for 12 months and are in good standing. You could borrow up to \$1,200. with a 12-month term at 12% APR*. This is a great loan opportunity just in time for the holidays.

Ring in the holidays and apply today!

*Some restrictions apply. APR = Annual Percentage Rate, not all members will qualify. For more information call 734-641-8400 or visit us at PSCUnow.com (Limited time offer)



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Investing vs. Paying Off Debt

Deciding factors include your financial resources and goals

Some people will decide to pay off all their debts before ever investing money, while others will say it's better to carry livable debt and be able to grow your savings over time. There are pros and cons to either option, depending on your financial situation.

What to consider first

According to an October 2014 article in U.S. News Money by contributor Joanne Cleaver, paying off debt first means losing potential compound interest earned on any investments you would have made during that time. On the other hand, investing first means having to manage your debt and pay more in interest over time. And if you've invested your money, you likely have fewer funds to make payments toward your debt.

Cleaver says that understanding your financial situation and what you can handle is the largest determinant. She suggests you find your tipping point for affordability by looking at the interest rates of your loans and calculating how much it will cost you on a monthly basis to maintain the debt. If the number doesn't fall within your affordability parameters, consider paying off the debt before doing any investing.

To do this, Paul Heising, a financial adviser with California-based investment firm Smarter Decisions, recommends “[organizing] consumer debt accounts according to their interest rates so you can see which are costing you the most,” and to “pay back loans with the higher interest rates first, especially if those rates are over 10 percent annually.”



Advantages of doing both

Other experts recommend striking a balance of paying off your debt and investing, but only with certain, less-risky investments at first. Joshua Kennon, author of *Investing for Beginners*, suggested such a balance in a January 2016 article on the financial resource website TheBalance.com.

According to Kennon, you should fund any workplace retirement accounts, like a 401(k), and start an emergency fund using an FDIC-insured institution while paying down any high-interest rate loans, like student loans and credit cards. Then, he advises to circle back to investing more money into such savings vehicles as an IRA or Roth IRA, and begin building assets in mutual fund and brokerage accounts.

He listed three main points in his reasoning:

1. “You minimize your tax bill, both from earned income and on investment income, which means more money in your own pocket.”
2. “You create significant bankruptcy protection for your retirement assets. Your employer-sponsored retirement plan, such as 401(k), has unlimited bankruptcy protection under the current rules, while your Roth IRA has \$1,245,475 in bankruptcy protection as of 2015.”
3. Reducing debt over time allows you to build up while you pay down, so that when you are debt-free you suddenly have a major stream of cash to do with what you want.

An article by CFP Nick Holeman for investment management firm Betterment suggested a similar plan to pay off debt while investing in certain funds.

Holeman advised making at least the minimum payment on your bills, on time, while taking advantage of any employer retirement savings as you pay off major debt. Then you can build your emergency fund and finally invest further for retirement and savings.

Contributing to your company 401(k), even with debt, is important, said Holeman. Especially if your employer has a match contribution, making your contribution maximum to earn the match can yield a higher return on your investment than can many other investment alternatives.

“If you have debt that’s costing you over five percent in fees, pay it off as fast as you can. Start with the highest-interest debt first,” Holeman suggested.

In the end, the decision between off all your debts first, investing all your money first or balancing a plan of both depends on your financial risk-taking and resources.

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Getting a Loan with Bad Credit

How you can still be approved

If you have poor or minimal credit, your chances of getting approved for an auto or personal loan aren't necessarily poor or minimal too. Here is what you can do to increase your chances of loan approval:

Don't assume you will be denied

— One surefire way not to get a loan is to never apply. But if you want to try, you first need to determine your credit score for yourself and go from there. If it's not where you would like it to be, don't be discouraged; there is still hope, according to John Van Alst, staff attorney for the National Consumer Law Center. Even two candidates with an identical score might not be the same in the eyes of a lender, he told Dana Dratch of Bankrate.com.



Furthermore, aim high. Depending on the type of loan, a certain credit score would be considered for a prime loan in some instances and for a subprime loan in others. Don't lowball yourself.

Shop close to home — Start your loan search in the confines of your area, perhaps at a local financial institution. While they are similar to larger institutions in terms of services, smaller financial institutions tend to have more flexible lending standards than big banks or online institutions.

“A [smaller financial institution]—especially one affiliated with your employer or one that is community-based—may be willing to look beyond a poor credit history and make a judgment about whether it will loan you money based on your character and your promise to repay, regardless of if you have bad credit or not. Think of them in the way you would a small community bank from years ago,” said the debt specialists at Debt.org.

If you've been banking at the same place for years, that's another good place to look, as they can attest to your character. However, don't settle for the first loan for which you get approved. Shop around to make sure you are finding the best option for you.

Limit your number of applications — While you want to remain open to options, you also need to be vigilant about how many loans you actually apply for.

“Each loan application that you submit triggers an inquiry into your credit. And each inquiry lowers your credit score by a little bit,” Lucy Lazarony of Credit.com explained.

Therefore, apply for a loan only from a lender that you trust with principled lending standards.

Get a co-signer — Ask a person with whom you have mutual trust to co-sign on your loan. With a co-signed loan, the responsibility lands on both of you; if you default, it will hurt you both in the credit department, but if you stay current, it will help both your individual scores.

Go a different route — There are numerous ways you can go about acquiring a loan: borrow from friends or family; tap into your home equity; try a secure loan; look into peer-to-peer lending (an online platform that allows you to borrow directly from another individual rather than from an institution); or research personal loan lenders, who generally work online and offer competitive loans for debt consolidation, home repairs and other necessities.

In the end, your best option would be to improve your credit score, but until that is possible, these tips provide a good place to start.

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Public Service Credit Union's Election and Annual Meeting

Elections will be held during the Annual meeting. If you would like to run for a Board position, you can pick up a petition from Dean Trudeau at the Administration office after November 1st. The petition must be returned no later than December 1, 2016 at 4:00pm with signatures of 600 bona fide Public Service Credit Union members. To run, you must be at least 18 years of age and a PSCU member in good standing. Board of Directors members running for re-election this year are Jeff King, Nora Sharpley & Dean Trudeau.

The Annual meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, January 24, 2016 @ 4:00pm
Held at the Romulus Branch located at 7665 Merriman Rd.

We would like to encourage your attendance and participation.

“FALL” in love with PSCU!



PSCU is here for You!

The holidays are fast approaching, there's no need to stress! Our PSCU staff is here to assist you in finding your best solution. Whether you're looking to Skip-A-Loan Payment, need that extra 15% over your credit limit or maybe you'll need us after the holidays to consolidate all those high interest department store cards. Just know our staff is here to help take your stress away. Go to any branch office for assistance, or call 734-641-8400 and speak to one of our representatives directly.

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Christmas Club Accounts

This is to remind all Christmas Club account members that your funds will automatically be deposited into your savings account on Nov. 3rd.

If you don't already have a Christmas Club account – **NOW** is a great time to set one up for next year – it's never too late!

"FALL" in love with PSCU!



Holiday Hours

All branches of PSCU will be closed in observation of the following holidays.

Veteran's Day

Friday, November 11th

Thanksgiving

Thursday, November 24th

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Pumpkin Roll Recipe

CAKE:

- 1/4 cup powdered sugar (to sprinkle on towel)
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/2 teaspoon baking powder
- 1/2 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cloves
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 3 large eggs
- 1 cup granulated sugar
- 2/3 cup LIBBY'S® 100% Pure Pumpkin
- 1 cup walnuts, chopped (optional)

FILLING:

- 1 pkg. (8 oz.) cream cheese, at room temperature
- 1 cup powdered sugar, sifted
- 6 tablespoons butter or margarine, softened
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- Powdered sugar (optional for decoration)

FOR CAKE:

PREHEAT oven to 375° F. Grease 15 x 10-inch jelly-roll pan; line with wax paper. Grease and flour paper. Sprinkle a thin, cotton kitchen towel with powdered sugar.

COMBINE flour, baking powder, baking soda, cinnamon, cloves and salt in small bowl. Beat eggs and granulated sugar in large mixer bowl until thick. Beat in pumpkin. Stir in flour mixture. Spread evenly into prepared pan. Sprinkle with nuts.

BAKE for 13 to 15 minutes or until top of cake springs back when touched. (If using a dark-colored pan, begin checking for doneness at 11 minutes.) Immediately loosen and turn cake onto prepared towel. Carefully peel off paper. Roll up cake and towel together, starting with narrow end. Cool on wire rack.

FOR FILLING:

BEAT cream cheese, 1 cup powdered sugar, butter and vanilla extract in small mixer bowl until smooth. Carefully unroll cake. Spread cream cheese mixture over cake. Reroll cake. Wrap in plastic wrap and refrigerate at least one hour. Sprinkle with powdered sugar before serving, if desired.

COOKING TIP:

Be sure to put enough powdered sugar on the towel when rolling up the cake so it will not stick.



Vehicle Details: Best Family Cars for Traveling

Get ready for the holiday season

It's nearly that time of year again when everyone packs into the family vehicle to head to wherever the holiday celebrations take them. Here are some vehicles that can help make your travels more enjoyable:

Chevrolet Tahoe — Ranked the No. 1 large SUV by U.S. News & World Report, the Tahoe has seating for up to nine people and the capability to get through even the nastiest of weather in comfort. A potent 5.3-liter V-8 makes 355 hp and 383 lb/ft of torque, allowing for 8,600 pounds of towing capacity that can help you bring even the largest of presents to Grandma's house. The Chevrolet MyLink system, push-button start, wireless charging and OnStar vehicle telematics are only a handful of the amenities you can add to the big SUV. A high-strength safety cage, seven airbags and available Side Blind Zone Alert and Lane Keep Assist help keep everyone safe.

“The 2016 Chevrolet Tahoe continues the tradition set down by its 4-wheeled forefathers with a new level of refinement and luxury elevating the entire Chevrolet brand,” Autotrader noted. “The Tahoe has been a best-seller and is a favorite with American families due to its tough construction, massive interior space and powerful V8 engine, allowing it to tow far greater loads than any car-based crossover.”

Chrysler Pacifica — As the newest minivan on the market, the 2017 Chrysler Pacifica has quickly shot to the top of the U.S. News & World Report rankings and it's easy to see why. In addition to its affordable \$28,595 starting MSRP and seating for up to eight, the Pacifica is available with some of the most family-friendly features, including the Uconnect Theater system, which can keep kids busy on even the longest of drives. The 3.6-liter V-6 engine produces a best-in-class 283 hp and 262 lb/ft of torque and is paired with an advanced nine-speed automatic transmission that helps it earn an unsurpassed EPA-estimated 28 mpg highway. Other highlights include Parallel and Perpendicular Park Assist, the Stow 'n Go seating and storage system, and Stow 'n Vac™ powered by RIDGID®.

“But what I love most about the Pacifica,” added CNET, “is its unabashed van-ness in a world where everything is a crossover, ‘wagon’ is a four-letter word and telling your friends that you're considering a minivan is tantamount to announcing that you've given up on life. It warms my heart to see there's still innovation and competition to be found in this shrinking class, and that the form and function can work together.”

Subaru Forester — If you don't need a larger vehicle, the five-passenger 2017 Subaru Forester is the perfect companion. Thanks to standard Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive, the Forester can handle nearly anything you throw its way with virtually no penalty to fuel economy, which is rated up to 32 mpg highway. You can choose from two SUBARU BOXER® engines: a 170-hp, 2.5-liter four-cylinder or a 250-hp, turbocharged 2.0-liter four-cylinder. Depending on the model, you can equip the Forester with the SUBARU STARLINK™ Multimedia system, EyeSight® Driver Assist Technology and even a Harman Kardon audio system. The Forester earned a five-star overall rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.



“Long known as a roomy, sure-footed but slightly dowdy compact crossover, the Forester is more stylish and commodious than before, and it's also much improved in an area that's increasingly important to a majority of buyers: fuel efficiency,” summarized Left Lane News.

Regardless of which model you choose, we have the right financing for your needs. Stop by today and let us help you get started.

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4 Steps to Take to Reduce Your Risk of Diabetes

Simple but effective measures that can help you avoid a diabetes diagnosis

November is National Diabetes Month, meaning it's as good a time as ever to learn what preventative measures you can take to help reduce your risk of a future diagnosis. Not only is there no cure for diabetes, but having the condition can also put you at risk of other diseases, including heart disease and kidney disease, as well as stroke and blindness.

Fortunately, there are steps you can take now to improve your chances of a healthy future.

Don't wait to lose weight

Type 1 diabetes, which is caused by problems with one's immune system, is impossible to prevent. However, the most common type of diabetes, type 2, typically affects people who are overweight. Therefore, losing weight can reduce your chances of contracting the disease.

If you are obese or overweight, you should figure out what your target weight is and work toward that goal. But according to the American Diabetes Association, even the loss of just 10 or 15 pounds can make a big difference. So set realistic weight loss goals that you can tackle with diet and exercise, knowing that each pound lost is a step in the right direction, and that a slimmer figure means slimmer chances of type 2 diabetes.



You are what you eat

Shedding excess pounds is the first step towards reducing your risk of type 2 diabetes, but changing your fundamental eating habits may also be necessary. The Harvard School of Public Health says the four most important changes you can make are choosing whole grains over highly processed carbohydrates, reducing your intake of sugary drinks such as sodas and some juices, picking chicken and fish over red meat and processed meat and cutting back on trans fats, which are found in margarines, packaged baked goods and most fried foods.

It may be hard to choose grilled chicken, veggies and unsweetened tea over a burger, fries and a cola, but choosing heart-healthy meals over fast food at lunch and dinnertime can have a huge impact on your health.

Get a move on

In addition to a more balanced diet, increased physical activity is another lifestyle change that can drastically reduce your future risk of diabetes. The American Diabetes Association recommends injecting a mix of activity, aerobic exercise, strength training and flexibility exercises into your daily routine.

You can increase your regular physical activity in many little ways—taking the stairs instead of the elevator, or parking further away from your office building or the grocery store so that you have to walk more. Aerobic exercise is not too taxing on your schedule either, as the ADA recommends just 30 minutes a day five days a week spent walking briskly, swimming or bicycle riding. And you don't need to be a gym rat to gain the benefits of strength training or flexibility exercises, which can take the form of lifting light weights at home and stretching gently for 5 to 10 minutes a day.

Choose your vices wisely

The Harvard School of Public Health reports that smokers are about 50 percent more likely than nonsmokers to develop diabetes. So if you are a tobacco user, it is strongly recommended that you try and quit now.

However, it is a different case entirely when it comes to alcohol. Harvard also argues that a growing body of evidence links moderate alcohol consumption (a drink a day for women, up to two drinks a day for men) to an increase in the efficiency of insulin at getting glucose inside cells, therefore potentially reducing the risk of type 2 diabetes. The trick, of course, is to keep alcohol consumption moderate, as excessive drinking can actually increase your risks.

Though genetics play a role in the development of diabetes, our own lifestyle choices are the most important factor. Weight loss, good eating habits, regular exercise and the occasional cocktail are all positive steps toward a healthy future.

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