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We just made it
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(304) 354-6106



EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

We spend nearly the first twenty-five years of our lives studying for exams, reading text books, writing essays. What comes next? What about the "after"? They say "a day without learning is a day wasted." Calhoun Banks believes in the power of education. We believe in the pursuit of knowledge.

Over the next several weeks, Calhoun Banks employees will be completing the Principles of Banking course. The purpose of this course is to provide employees with the knowledge of how banks operate within communities, how banks operate as a financial institution, and how each employee is an important asset within Calhoun Banks.

Employees are constantly learning from webinars, meetings, and other various trainings. We will have two employees returning for their second year at the West Virginia School of Banking, as well as two other employees returning for year three at the Barret Graduate School of Banking.

A MESSAGE FROM MARTHA

Let's all make 2023 a year that we evaluate and improve our financial health.

Step 1: Request your annual free credit report from annualcreditreport.com. If you need assistance understanding items that appear, please reach out and we will help.

Step 2: Start contributing to a retirement savings plan or increase your current contribution level. If your employer doesn't offer a retirement plan, consider opening an Individual retirement account (IRA).

Step 3: Set aside money from your pay each pay period into savings. Check with your employer to see if they have an automatic deduction option and you will be more apt to follow your savings plan. Pay yourself first!

Step 4: Ensure that your tax withholding levels are appropriate for your current earnings and life situation. After your tax return is complete for 2022, calculate your appropriate withholding rate for the coming year.

Step 5: Evaluate your monthly membership and/or service fees to see if any can be reduced or eliminated. Review items that post to your bank account automatically through our mobile app or internet banking.

Step 6: Prepare a budget and monitor your adherence to it. Our money management tool can help with this by providing colorful charts and graphs that track spending habits.

Step 7: Plan for vacation expenses by opening an adventure fund account with us. You can contribute weekly, and we will pay out your balance plus interest right before summer vacation season. Set up an automatic transfer or payroll deduction so you do not have to remember to save.

2022 was a great year for Calhoun Banks. We were able to assist folks in our communities with the purchase of new homes, vehicles, tractors, etc. through new loans which totaled over \$37 million. The majority of this money was spent locally which benefited and strengthened our local economy. We were also able to retain the historically largest amount of earnings into our organization which ensures its strength and stability. We have been serving this community since 1901, and we are still going strong!

- *Martha Haymaker; President/CEO*



FAKING IT - SCAMMERS' TRICKS TO STEAL YOUR HEART AND YOUR MONEY

By Aditi Jhaveri, Consumer Education Specialist, FTC | July 15, 2015

Not everyone using online dating sites is looking for love. Scammers create fake online profiles using photos of other people — even stolen pictures of real military personnel. They profess their love quickly. And they tug at your heartstrings with made-up stories about how they need money — for emergencies, hospital bills, or travel. Why all of the tricks? They're looking to steal your money.

As if all that isn't bad enough, romance scammers are now involving their victims in online bank fraud. Here's how it works: The scammers set up dating profiles to meet potential victims. After they form a "relationship," they come up with reasons to ask their love interest to set up a new bank account. The scammers transfer stolen money into the new account, and then tell their victims to wire the money out of the country. Victims think they're just helping out their soulmate, never realizing they're aiding and abetting a crime.

Here are some warning signs that an online love interest might be a fake. They ask you to:

- chat off of the dating site immediately, using personal email, text, or phone
- wire money using Western Union or Money Gram
- set up a new bank account

Did you know you can do an image search of your love interest's photo in your favorite search engine? If you do an image search and the person's photo appears under several different names, you're probably dealing with a scammer. And if the person's online profile disappears a few days after they meet you, that's another tip-off.

Here's the real deal: Don't send money to someone you met online — for any reason. If your online sweetheart asks for money, you can expect it's a scam.

Unfortunately, online dating scams are all too common. There may be tens of thousands of victims, and only a small fraction report it to the FTC. If this happens to you, please report it at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

source: Faking it — scammers' tricks to steal your heart and money | Consumer Advice (ftc.gov)

WE GET IT, BUYING A HOUSE IS STRESSFUL

That's why Calhoun Banks has changed the way you can access a mortgage application. Now you can download a copy of the application online and submit it via email. No email? No problem!

Download and print the application! Our lenders would be more than happy to see your smiling face!

Visit

www.CalhounBanks.com/Lending/Mortgage

to open the door to your next home.



The power to
protect your cards
is in your hands.



Turn Off and On



Control Use

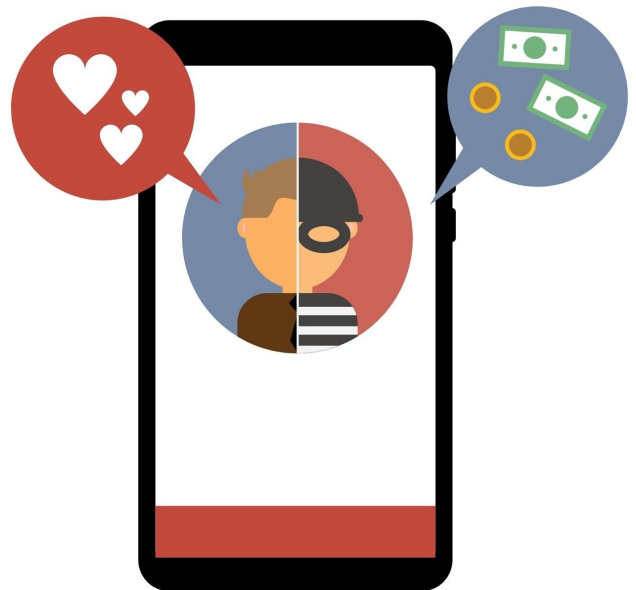


Receive Alerts

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HOW TO SPOT & AVOID ROMANCE SCAMS

- Use a reverse image search to check profile pictures
- Only scammers ask you to pay by cryptocurrency, gift card, or wire transfer
- Never send or forward money to people you meet online
- Slow down and talk to someone you trust
- Scammers will often confess their love quickly
- Scammers will request to talk outside of your dating app then request for money
- Scammers will appeal for help with travel, debts, or medical emergencies
- Scammers will often lead you to believe he or she lives far away and works odd hours to avoid face to face communication



DO'S AND DON'TS OF TAX REFUNDS

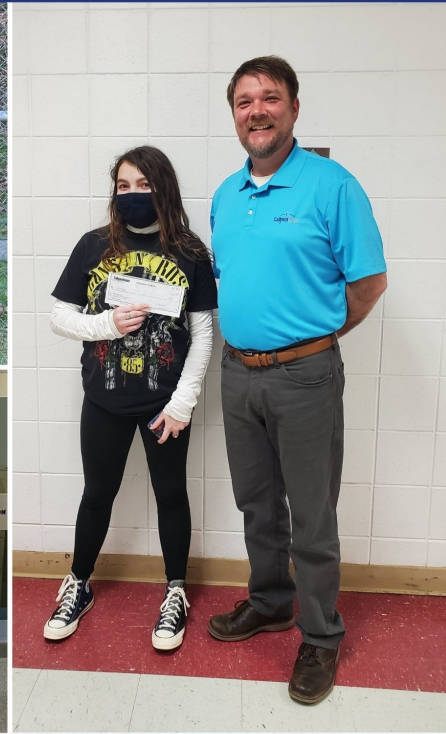
DO:

- Sign up for Direct Deposit to receive your refund faster!
- Remember to bring your current, unexpired, photo ID with you to cash your physical check.
- Be sure that every named party is present.
- Consider saving for a rainy day! Ask about your savings options.

DON'T:

- Direct Deposit your refund into an account where you are not named; it will be returned.
- Falsify your name/account number.

2022 IN REVIEW





INNOVATIVE SERVICES

**Our Mission is to
provide high quality
financial services that
meet the needs of our
communities while
proudly remaining
independently owned.**

COMMUNITY HEART

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LET US KNOW HOW WE'RE DOING!

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