

THE CREDIT UNION COLUMN

HOLIDAY CLOSURE

The Credit Union will be closed on Monday, February 16th in recognition of President' Day. Please plan your financial needs accordingly.

ANNUAL MEETING TICKET SALES

Ticket sales begin on Wednesday, February 18th at 9 a.m. at BDCU. Our Board of Directors will be there to welcome you with donuts and coffee. We recommend arriving early, tickets were sold out by 10:00 a.m. last year!

This year's Annual Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11th at 5 p.m. at Boulder Creek Golf Club.

GUARDING HEARTS: BEWARE OF ROMANCE SCAMS THIS VALENTINE'S DAY

As Valentine's Day approaches, the air is filled with love and anticipation. Unfortunately, amidst the celebration of romance, there's a darker side that preys on vulnerable hearts – romance scams. In the digital age, the quest for love has extended to online platforms, making individuals susceptible to deceptive schemes that exploit emotions for financial gain.

The Anatomy of a Romance Scam:

Romance scams typically involve criminals creating fake identities on dating websites or social media platforms to build emotional connections with unsuspecting victims. Once trust is established, the scammer often concocts a fictional crisis, requesting financial assistance. This heartbreaking manipulation plays on the victim's empathy, leading them to send money, gifts, or personal information.

Red Flags to Watch For:

1. Too Good to Be True: Scammers often present an idealized version of themselves, with attractive profile pictures and charming descriptions that seem too perfect.
2. Quick Declarations of Love: Beware of rapid expressions of affection and declarations of love from individuals you've just met online. Scammers accelerate the emotional connection to exploit vulnerability.
3. Excuses to Avoid Meeting: Romance scammers often provide plausible reasons for avoiding face-to-face meetings, such as claiming to be working abroad or serving in the military.
4. Financial Requests: The most significant red flag is the request for money or financial assistance. Scammers may fabricate emergencies or hardships to manipulate victims into sending funds.

Protecting Yourself:

1. Stay Skeptical: Maintain a healthy level of skepticism, especially if the online relationship progresses quickly or if the person avoids meeting in person.
2. Verify Identities: Use reverse image searches or other tools to verify the authenticity of profile pictures and information provided by the individual.
3. Never Send Money: Be cautious about sharing financial information or sending money to someone you've met online. Legitimate romantic interests will not request money from you.
4. Report Suspicious Activity: If you suspect you're a victim of a romance scam, report the incident to the dating platform and local authorities.

This Valentine's Day, while celebrating love, let's also empower ourselves and our loved ones to stay vigilant against romance scams. Guarding our hearts and staying informed can help ensure that the pursuit of love remains joyful and genuine.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"When someone shows you who they are, believe them the first time."

- Maya Angelou



Boulder Dam Credit Union
530 Ave G, Boulder City
(702) 293-7777
www.boulderdamcu.org



ACCOUNTS INSURED UP TO \$500,000



American Share Insurance insures each account up to \$250,000. Excess Share Insurance Corporation provides up to an additional \$250,000 of insurance per account. This institution is not federally insured.