

FAB News



FIRST AMERICAN
BANK



Fall 2012



Join us at the Hilltop Pumpkin Party!

Saturday, October 27th from 10am to 3pm at the YMCA Day Camp St. Croix Camp

FAB Olympics



Employee Appreciation

On September 21st, we closed our offices an hour early for an employee appreciation event, known as the FAB Olympics. For pictures and more information, see page 4.

From finance.yahoo.com

Fall is here!

Top 5 Credit Score Myths

Myth #1: Closing a card after paying off a massive debt load is a fine idea.

While it may feel good to kiss that card goodbye, it's not necessarily a smart move. Closing a credit card account may actually increase what's known as your debt-to-credit utilization ratio, which is the sum of all your outstanding credit card debt divided by the sum of all your credit card limits. A higher utilization is considered risky by credit score calculators and can potentially ding your score — in the wrong direction. To earn the highest score, try to use no more than 10 percent of all your available credit.

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Letter from the president

John Malmberg,
President
First American Bank



First American is unique among banks in Hudson in that it is truly a local bank. Its charter is located in Hudson, its only location is in Hudson and its livelihood is tied directly to the success of the greater Hudson community. At a time when “go local” is sweeping the country, when special days are set aside to shop in locally owned businesses, it is important to note that a strong local bank also helps make a community strong. A strong local bank provides for a safe and secure place to save and invest your funds and it provides loans in the community for a diverse array of credit needs. Local businesses make a community a better place to live. As opposed to national chains, the earnings from local businesses stay in the community. Their earnings and the wages they pay provide the foundation for the community to prosper. As a small business, First American provides that same foundation of earnings and wages. A bank's business is also to reinvest its

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Myth #2: Your employment history impacts your score.

This isn't true, yet more than half of consumers surveyed believe having a steady job track record improves a credit score. Of course, having a job helps you to qualify for a loan, but it's not factored into your credit score.

Myth #3: Financing a big purchase — like a new home or car — will lower your score.

False. Your score won't be affected for simply taking on a new loan like a mortgage or car loan. Actually, having a variety of credit cards and loans—and managing them responsibly—can help boost your score. In fact, about 10 percent of your FICO credit score is dependent on the "types of credit used."

Myth #4: The older you are, the higher your score.

While it's true that the length of your credit history factors into your credit score, it doesn't take into account your age. The important thing to note is that the earlier in life you establish credit and, again, manage it responsibly by paying your bills on time and having low balances, the better for your score in the long run.

Myth #5: Checking my score will lower my score.

This is a huge misconception. But the truth is, looking up your own score yourself is totally harmless. In fact, it's recommended that you check your scores yearly from each of the three major credit reporting agencies: Experian, Equifax and TransUnion. On the other hand, if a lender or credit card company checks your credit score, it's likely recorded as a "hard" inquiry and may work against you if you have multiple financial institutions checking your credit. One exception is if you're shopping around for a mortgage or car loan and receive multiple credit inquiries from lenders within a short time frame. All the inquiries in this case will typically count as just one inquiry and should do little to no harm on your credit score.

deposits into the community. Community banks make loans so small business owners can start a business, or expand, or increase the funds they have available for day-to-day operations. Community banks make home loans and auto loans to individuals. Taking care of our customers and looking out for the best interest of our community is ingrained in the way we conduct business each and every day. Banking data shows that community banks fund over 60% of all small business loans. By putting those dollars back into the community they make it a better place to live. When you think about "going local" also think about banking locally. It will help make your community a better place to live.

And, when you bank at First American, you will be more than a number. Your calls will be answered by a knowledgeable banker. You will not have to navigate some annoying automated phone tree. You will receive great personal service and you will receive appropriate advice and counsel. Our bankers have on average over fifteen years of banking experience each. They know the answers to your questions and have the authority to make things happen. Bank locally at First American Bank; we look forward to serving your financial needs.

John A. Malmberg
President/CEO

Want to win a \$10 gift card?

Take our Trivia Challenge!
This issue's trivia question is...

How much of a pumpkin is actually water?

- A. 15%
- B. 90%
- C. 45%
- D. 75%

Email us with your answer!

tellers@fa-bank.net

We will draw a winner from all the correct answers received.



Festive Facts

- Pumpkins are a member of the gourd family, which includes cucumbers, honeydew melons, cantaloupe, watermelons and zucchini. These plants are native to Central America and Mexico, but now grow on six continents.
- Thanksgiving football games began with Yale versus Princeton in 1876
- The largest pumpkin pie ever baked was in 2005 and weighed 2,020 pounds.
- Americans eat roughly 535 million pounds of turkey on Thanksgiving
- In 1584, after French explorer Jacques Cartier explored the St. Lawrence region of North America, he reported finding "gros melons." The name was translated into English as "pompions," which has since evolved into the modern "pumpkin."
- Thanksgiving can occur as early as November 22 and as late as November 28
- Pumpkins are low in calories, fat, and sodium and high in fiber. They are good sources of Vitamin A, Vitamin B, potassium, protein, and iron.
- The heaviest pumpkin weighed 1,810 lb 8 oz and was presented by Chris Stevens at the Stillwater Harvest Fest in Stillwater, Minnesota, in October 2010.

From History.com & Facts.randomhistory.com

The History of Candy Corn

From www.candy-corn.info



Candy corn has a legacy that goes back over a hundred years. The Philadelphia-based Wunderlee Candy Company's George Renninger, invented this popular candy back in the 1880's. Wunderlee Candy Company was the first to manufacture candy corn as a result. Then, in 1900, the Goelitz Candy Company (which later became the Jelly Belly Candy Company) started making these candies and continues to make candy corn today.

Candy corn's introduction gained instant popularity among farmers due to its appearance of an actual piece of corn. Additionally, the three colors on a single candy were revolutionary in its day - the masses went bonkers for candy corn. However, since their manufacturing wasn't automated back then, candy corn was made seasonally between the months of March and November. Candy corn is the same now as it was way back then and is a Halloween favorite.

Today, nearly 8.3 billion candy corn kernels are sold every year - 80% of which are sold during the months of September and October!

How is Candy Corn Made?

Back in 1900, it took quite a few workers to make candy corn eight months out of the year.

The corn syrup, sugar, and other candy corn ingredients were cooked together in massive pots, producing a watery mixture. A thick, creamy sugar paste and marshmallow are mixed in to provide a smooth texture and kick. Then, the 45 pounds molten hot candy was transferred into smaller buckets referred to as runners. Workers called stringers then emptied the candy into cornstarch molds which gave the candy corn their kernel shape. Three passes were needed to layer the white, then orange, then yellow colors. Back then, candy corn was carried in wagons, packed in wooden crates and barrels.

Today, the process by which candy corn is made remains very similar. Nowadays, machines do the bulk of the work.

Candy makers use a process called corn starch molding. Corn starch is used to fill a tray, creating candy corn shaped indentations. Candy corns are built from the top to the bottom in three waves of color. First, the indentation is partially filled with white syrup. Next, when the white is partially set, they add the orange syrup. The creation is then finished up by adding the yellow syrup and then cooled. The candy starts fusing together while it cools. After cooling the candies, the trays are dumped out, the corn starch is sifted away, and the candy corn is ready to be sent out to a store near you.



FAB OLYMPICS

This year marked the second annual First American Bank Olympics! The staff was divided up into 3 separate teams. Each team participated in various activities throughout the week, leading up to the final events on Friday night, September 21st. The events were as follows:

- ⌘ **Baby photo match**
- ⌘ **Scavenger hunt**
- ⌘ **Medallion hunt**
- ⌘ **Bowling lane design**
- ⌘ **Bowling game**
- ⌘ **Rubber band archery**
- ⌘ **Office chair race**

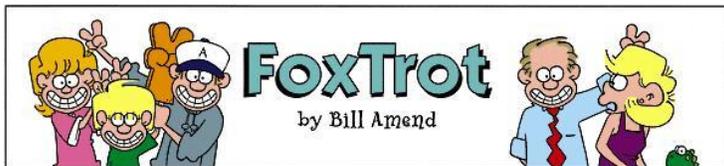
Business Corner

Introducing the First American Bank Business Corner! Each month, we will feature a business that banks with us with the goal of letting the community know more about local businesses and what they have to offer.

To kick off our first Business Corner, we'd like to introduce you to L'event. L'event is a bridal consulting and event management service that strives to make your event the event to remember. From weddings to corporate and social events to fundraisers—L'event's mission is to select and carry out event details in such a way that the host/hostess will feel like a guest.

To learn more about L'event, please stop in to the bank to visit our Business Corner, or click [here](#) for more information about planning a successful event!

For current updates on our business corner visit our website:



Halloween Joke:

What does a skeleton always order at restaurants?

Answer: Spare ribs

Monthly Sudoku

9								
1	6			4				2
		8	7	3				
		6			3		8	5
	9						4	
3	8		2			7		
				2	7	5		
6				9			2	3
								9

Go Green!

Tired of sorting through piles of mail?

Enroll in E-statements to receive your bank statements online!

1. Log onto Internet banking
2. Select "Preferences" tab, then "Delivery"
3. Select which accounts you would like electronic statements

If you know anyone who needs a mortgage or would like to refinance their Adjustable Rate Mortgage, please contact one of our exceptional mortgage bankers to assist them in determining the option that best suits their needs.



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