

Spring 2025

NEWS

from

**AMERICAN
TRUST & SAVINGS BANK**



A Better Borrowing Experience



Loaning money is one of the most important things we do, and we strive to make the borrowing experience pleasant for our customers. Here are just a few of the advantages you'll find at American Trust & Savings Bank:

AN EASY APPLICATION PROCESS.

You'll be surprised at how little information is needed for most types of loans.

LOCAL DECISIONS AND PROCESSING.

We're locally owned and operated. Loan decisions are made right here in Cedar County – where we call home. If you have questions about your loan, you can call and talk to the people that actually make the credit decisions.

QUICKER APPROVAL TIMES.

Many times, we can give you a same-day answer to your loan request. We will even call you on the phone if it is more convenient.

PAYMENT OPTIONS.

We'll help you set up the payment plan that works best with your schedules and budget. And, with any of our loans, you can enjoy the convenience of an automatic debit from your checking or savings account.

Loans Designed to Fit All Your Needs

1. Installment, Personal, and Home Improvement Loans
2. Automobile Loans
3. Agriculture Loans (for operations, equipment, livestock, or real estate)
4. Business Loans
5. Commercial Mortgages

Three ways scammers try to steal your money



Scammers aren't just after your data. They want your hard-earned cash, too. Here are some common scams to watch out for.

FAKE FRAUD ALERTS

Scammers pretend to be your bank and companies you might know and send messages about a supposedly suspicious transaction. If you reply, they call you and tell an elaborate story about fraud using your identity. They promise to help but instead drain your account.

WHAT TO DO

Don't click on a link in an unexpected message. If you think the message might be legitimate, contact the company through their official app, website, chat, or customer service phone number. Don't call back the number that called you or a number someone left in a voicemail or text message.

FAKE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Scammers reach out to people through social media with "special" opportunities to invest in cryptocurrency. They guarantee big returns with little or no risk. If you take the bait, they direct you to a spoofed site where you think you're investing. But you're not. It's a fake site. After they've gotten as much as they think they can get from you, they shut down the bogus website and disappear with your money.

WHAT TO DO

Don't believe anyone who guarantees you can earn a lot of money on an investment with little or no risk. All investments have risks so research the opportunity before you invest.

FAKE INVOICES

Scammers send you a bogus email about renewing a subscription or membership you never signed up for. For example, they might pretend to be from Geek Squad, Best Buy's tech support service. The email says they'll charge you hundreds of dollars to renew your membership unless you call to cancel within 24 hours. If you call (which you should not do) the scammers ask for remote access to your computer, install spyware, and drain money from your bank account.

WHAT TO DO

If you think the message might be legitimate, contact the company through their official app, website, chat, or customer service phone number.

Puig, Alvaro. "Three ways scammers try to steal your money." Accessed December 4, 2024.
<https://consumer.ftc.gov/consumer-alerts/2024/10/three-ways-scammers-try-steal-your-money>

Don't Forget Your e-Statements

If you aren't already receiving e-Statements, now is the time. Here are some of the common questions we receive:

1

What is an e-Statement?

An e-Statement is an electronic version of your checking/savings account statements. You will receive an e-mail when your statement is ready for viewing. It also eliminates the possibility of mail theft.

2

Do I have to have Online Banking?

Yes. For you to take advantage of this feature, Online Banking is necessary. Let us know if you need help registering.

3

If I sign up for e-Statements, will I still receive my paper statements? We

discontinue your paper statements when you switch to e-Statements. You can view, save, and print your e-Statements at any time.

4

How will I know when a new e-Statement is available?

You will receive an e-mail at the close of each statement cycle to let you know your statement is available.

5

How do I sign up?

You can send us an e-mail (info@atsb-lowden.com), call us at 563-941-5391, or send us a secure message through your Online Banking account (click "Secure Message").



IRA Reminder

You can still make a contribution to an IRA for the 2024 tax year until April 15, 2025. We'll help you decide what kind of IRA makes the most sense for you.

For 2024, your total contributions to your traditional and Roth IRAs cannot be more than \$7,000, or \$8,000 if you were age 50 or older by the end of 2024.

If you're changing jobs or about to retire, we can also help you rollover your retirement account and design a savings plan that meets your retirement goals..

American Trust also offers SEP (simplified employee pension) accounts.

IRA Savings 3.02% APY*

** Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is accurate as of March 20, 2025. Requires a minimum deposit of \$100. Rates may change after account opening.*

National Small Business Week May 4 - 10

This year National Small Business Week will be held from May 4 to 10, recognizing the critical contributions of America's entrepreneurs and small business owners.

There are nearly 35 million small businesses in the U.S., which roughly make up around 99% of all the businesses in the country. More than half of Americans either own or work for a small business and create about two out of every three new jobs in the U.S. each year. The same is true in Lowden and the surrounding area.



American Trust and Savings Bank stands alongside our outstanding entrepreneurs, small business owners, and farmers. Every day, they're working to grow small businesses, create 21st century jobs, drive innovation, and increase America's global competitiveness.

A special thanks to our area small businesses and farmers for all you do to support our local community!

Update: Beneficial Ownership Interim Final Rule

The Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN) recently issued an interim final rule narrowing the existing beneficial ownership information (BOI) reporting requirements under the Corporate Transparency Act to reduce the burden on reporting companies associated with the collection of information.

The current Rule exempts "domestic reporting companies" (defined as a corporation, limited liability company, or other entity that is created by a filing with the secretary of state or any similar office under the laws of a state or Indian tribe) from the Reporting Rule - meaning these companies do not have to report BOI to FinCEN or update or correct BOI previously reported as they are outside the scope of the Rule.

AG CORNER



Estimated Costs of Crop Production in Iowa - 2025

The estimated costs of corn, corn silage, soybean, alfalfa, and pasture maintenance in this report are based on data from several sources. These cost estimates intend to represent average costs for farms in Iowa. Very large or small farms may have lower or higher fixed costs per acre. Due to differences in soil potential, quantity of inputs used and other factors, production costs will vary from farm to farm.

To read the complete report from Chard of Iowa State Extension and Outreach, go to: <https://www.extension.iastate.edu/agdm/crops/html/a1-20.html>



Mark Your Calendar

If you would like us to publish upcoming community events, be sure to contact the bank. We'll include it in our quarterly newsletter.

SPRING DINNER, ZION UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, LOWDEN

Sunday May 4, 2025

Time: Serving 11 AM to 1 PM.

Swiss steak plus all of the trimmings.

Free will donation.

Carryout available until Noon by calling 563-941-7726. May call for carryout Saturday from 9 AM to 12 noon or Sunday from 8 to 10 AM.

COOKIE DAY AT AMERICAN TRUST

Friday, May 9, 2025

during banking hours.

It's our way of saying

"Thank you for your business!"

Bank Holidays

The bank will be closed for these upcoming holidays:

Monday, May 26

Memorial Day

Thursday, June 19

Juneteenth

Friday, July 4

Independence Day

Traveling this summer?

If you are planning a trip outside of your normal shopping area and plan to use your debit card, please let us know so we can expand your geographical profile. **We would also like to have a current cell phone and/or home phone number for you.**

Manage Your Debit Card with Brella

Whether you're at home or traveling, debit cardholders have access to enhanced banking and debit card services with the Brella® mobile app.

Brella helps you protect your debit card by sending you alerts when

your card is used so you can quickly detect unauthorized or fraudulent activity on your account. Users have the option to receive text or email alerts. You can also check your account balance anytime, turn your card off and on, send money to other users and find nearby ATMs.

To download a free Brella app, simply search for "Brella – Card Manager" in the Apple App Store or Google Play.

American Trust & Savings Bank wants to be sure that your travels are safe and secure. That includes your financial life, too!

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