



PRINCEVILLE STATE BANK



“Financial News”

Happy New Year Everyone!

We are a month into a new year and a new decade. Most everyone I have talked to has had their fair share of winter weather thus far and I believe most everyone is ready for spring. A sure sign of warmer weather is that Major League Baseball pitchers and catchers report for Spring Training on February 17th.

A new year brings new challenges and new opportunities. One area of concern is the continued high unemployment rate and signs that the economy is still struggling. Many analysts think that we will see unemployment continue to rise before we see it level off and begin its gradual decline. Doubt it will reach 11% nationally but chances are that it will test that threshold. It seems that most are tightening their belts for the long haul and when things will turn around is anyone's guess. If I had to analyze all the reports I see and / or hear my best guess would be we are bound to see a repeat of 2009 here in 2010. Rates aren't poised to start their upward trend until sometime in 2011 or even 2012. This could change depending on elections and a compilation of other factors. It was noted last week that the economy grew in the 4th quarter of 2009. This growth was better than expected and was due in large part to businesses ramping up their investment in equipment and software. Consumer spending increased despite the worries that employers are still slashing jobs.

Fortunately spring is around the corner and now is the time to plan for all those “Spring Projects” around the house. With rates at historic lows, maybe this is the time to look into refinancing your home or taking out a Home Equity loan to replace some windows or roof or even add that backyard patio for some summertime entertainment. Interest you pay on your mortgage or Home Equity loan may be used as a tax deduction but check with your tax preparer to make sure. I'll be glad to get outside, sharpen the mower blades and take in that smell of freshly cut grass. (I just hope I'm not mowing as much as I did last year).

I thank everyone that has taken the time to call and/or e-mail me regarding the articles that PSB has submitted to NoPeoCo. I encourage you to e-mail me at ablack@p-s-b.com or call me if there is anything you would like more information on or to have highlighted in the weekly column. Thanks for reading and have a great week.....



142 East Main Street
P.O. Box 409
Princeville, IL 61559
(888) 385-4375

Shoppes at Grand Prairie
4924 West American Prairie Dr.
Peoria, IL 61615
(309) 693-9494

