

# THE CREDIT UNION COLUMN

## BACK TO SCHOOL

No way! Summer just started and school is getting ready to begin already! I haven't quite figured out how our kids keep getting older and we don't. But, why ask questions?

There are many ways that your Credit Union can help as school gets ready to kick off. Low rate signature loans for school expenses, low rate auto loans for the college bound student, Debit Cards for living expenses, and school calendars for all Boulder City classrooms. During the school year the Credit Union has an even greater presence, but we're here now to help with your back to school needs.

This is your Credit Union and we are here for your family!

## AVOID THESE 3 FINANCIAL REGRETS

From Myriam DiGiovanni of CUInsight: If you've ever wished for a financial do-over, you're not alone.

According to a StudentLoanHero.com survey, in the past year, 76% of Americans have some form of financial regret. Those surveyed said they spent the most on entertainment, clothes and cars.

The top three regrets reported were wishing more was saved for retirement, not saving more money in general and taking on credit card debt. For their money spend do-over, 34% said they'd stash more into their 401(k) or individual retirement account. Fifty-one percent said they needed to cut back on dining out, 22% on buying clothes/shoes and 20% had plans to re-evaluate their mobile phones and service expenses.

Some mistakes are worse than others. Here are three mistakes experts say you should avoid.

**A 401(k) loan:** Unless it's an emergency, it's a bad idea. Not only are you reducing your retirement savings and not earning the compound interest, but if your employer lets you go, you'll have to repay the entire loan or pay taxes and penalties. In addition, some plans suspend 401(k) contributions until the outstanding loan is repaid.

**Children first, retirement later mentality:** Parents will sacrifice everything for their child. However, saving to fund your child's college education at the cost of your own retirement is short sighted. The earlier you start saving for retirement the better. Chances are your retirement expenses are going to be higher than you've anticipated. Do you really want to be a burden to your kids in your golden years? Take the "put the oxygen mask on yourself first" approach. If you have the ability to do both, then great. But if it's a choice of your retirement fund or your child's education, know that your child has other options available to cover those costs. There are scholarships, grants and student loans. There are no back-up retirement funding options.

**Paying only minimum balance:** According to CardRates.com, the total amount of debt carried as credit card balances in 2017 was \$830 billion. The average household has about \$6,577 in credit card debt. The amount paid in interest every year adds up, resulting in more and more debt.

## CHANGE YOUR PASSWORDS

When I hit 50, my memory changed gears. And, for the record, it is a much slower gear. As a result, changing my many passwords is becoming more and more challenging, not only to manage, but to remember. But despite these difficulties, it is still very important!

There are many ways to protect yourself from fraud and electronic theft, but one of the basic, most essential steps is to regularly change your passwords on important accounts!

(And please don't forget, if you change the password on your accounts don't forget to tell your spouse. As we have mentioned before, ensuring your spouse knows how and where to access your family accounts is critically important in the event of an unexpected emergency.)

## WORDS OF WISDOM

*Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies.*

Mother Teresa



**Boulder Dam Credit Union**  
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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.