

Prime time to borrow from credit union: auto loan edition

The Federal Reserve Board raised rates in March, with three additional rate hikes anticipated this year. Now is the time to borrow before loan rates go any higher. Get pre-approved now to lock in a low rate and take up to 60 days to find just the right car for your needs. Shop online at ksbcbscu.cudlautosmart.com to narrow

your search based on criteria like new or used, make and model, maximum price, maximum mileage and more.

If you are interested in applying for a loan from the Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union, complete an online application or contact the credit union at ext. 8774.



ANNUAL MEETING

Date: April 24, 2018

Place: Blue's Café

Time: 5 p.m.

Parking available in the lot between

Doors open at 4:30 p.m.

11th and 12th off Polk Street.

Refreshments, information and door prizes!

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www.ksbcbscu.org

Important Dates:

April 1-30

National Credit Union Youth Month

April 17

2017 IRA Contribution Deadline

April 24

64th Annual Meeting

May 28

Closed for Memorial Day

July 4

Closed for Independence Day

Science of saving

Saving your money isn't always easy, especially when you don't have a lot to spare. After paying all your usual expenses, there may be very little "fun" money at the end of the month. When we do find ourselves with some extra cash, like a tax refund, many of us rush out to buy those shoes or that electronic gadget we've been eyeing for months instead of putting it into our savings.

Why do we do that? Why do we spend the money we planned on using for our future?

We can blame it on our brains. Behavioral science has shown humans are hard-wired to act on impulse and it takes conscious thought to delay gratification. It's also much easier to focus on the present than our future.

To help you save for your future, behavioral science suggests visualizing yourself as you might look when you're older. For instance, if you want to save for retirement, imagine yourself at age 67, living comfortably, maybe travelling the country, or having the time and the means to do something you've always wanted to do. According to a study done in 2014, this technique works. The researchers took photos of 50 college students and digitally altered each person's photo to make them look 70 years old. The participants were instructed to study the photos. Then they were told to imagine receiving \$1,000 and were asked how they'd like to use the money: buy something now for a special person or for extravagant night out, or put the money into a retirement fund. After seeing a photo of themselves at 70 years old, the majority allocated more of the money to their retirement fund than to the other options.

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Another way to help you save for your future is by making it a habit. Start with small goals. For instance, commit to putting a certain amount, say \$10, into a savings account every week. If you have direct deposit, you might want to consider setting up an automatic transfer of \$10 into your savings account every time your paycheck is deposited. Over time, you can gradually increase the amount by a dollar or two.

Teach your children how to save

To help your children get into the savings habit, start by having them cut out pictures of something they'd like to have someday and post the images where they'll see them often. Then help them open a savings account at Kansas Blue Cross Blue Shield Credit Union. You can open an account with as little as \$5. Encourage your child to make regular small deposits each week. Tell them their money will earn interest while it's in their account. If they keep this routine going, they'll quickly see their savings grow.

This April, we're celebrating **National Credit Union Youth Month**. We encourage you to bring your children into the credit union to enjoy fun games, win prizes, and learn more about the Science of Saving.



Stay safe from fraudsters

Scammers, hackers and fraudsters can make your life miserable. Here are some terms to know to keep your data and identity safe.

1 Ransomware

Malware that invades a computer system and prevents you from accessing your data, files or information. Fraudsters then demand a ransom be paid to allow access. To stay safe, back up data, only download software from trusted sites and don't open attachments from email senders you don't recognize. Report ransomware to the FBI through the Internet Crime Complaint Center: <https://www.ic3.gov>

2 Phishing

Individuals are encouraged to click through to fraudulent sites, give personal information about themselves or even send money.

3 Vishing

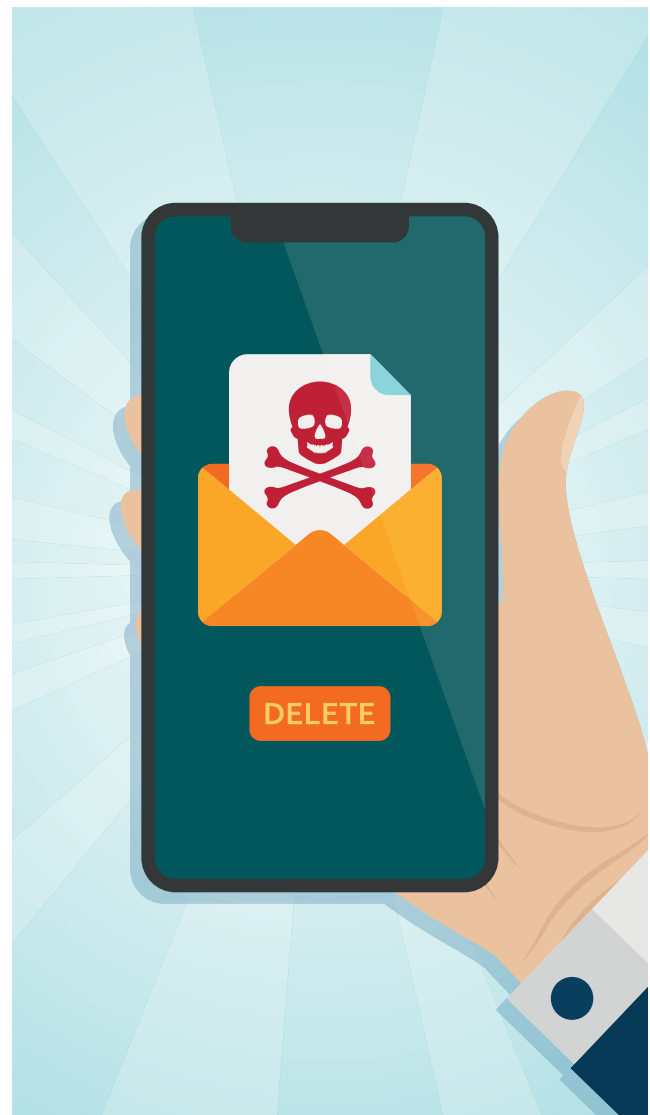
Scammers call you to get personal information or trick you into giving access to your computer or accounts. Most of the time, fraudsters will impersonate a trusted company and use urgency to get victims to act quickly.

4 Smishing

Using SMS text messaging, you are tricked into downloading a virus onto your phone.

5 Pharming

Uses domain spoofing (in which the domain appears authentic) to redirect users to copies of popular websites where personal data like user names, passwords and financial information can be 'farmed' and collected for fraudulent use.



Always be mindful of links, strange emails or unusual phone calls or messages. If you suspect it's suspicious, you are probably right. The credit union will never ask you for a full Social Security number or full card number. If you ever receive a call from someone representing the credit union and you're unsure of the authenticity, hang up and call us at 785-291-8774.

Marrying your finances

You're getting married! Congratulations!

Before you say "I do," it's a good idea for the two of you to talk about finances and agree on how you'll handle them. This will ensure your marriage gets off to a good start

Financial baggage

Have a discussion about how you'll handle premarital debt. Will your spouse be solely responsible for paying off his or her old debt or are you going to pay a portion of it? Keep in mind that if your partner has many large debts and has a pattern of irresponsible spending, the behavior may not stop after you're married.

You're not responsible for any debt your partner accumulated before marriage. However, if you live in a community property state (Arizona, California, Idaho, Louisiana, Nevada, New Mexico, Texas, Washington and Wisconsin), after you marry, you and your spouse are jointly responsible for any debt either of you accumulates. If you apply for credit jointly and your spouse has a poor credit record, their record can damage yours. It also may affect your ability to meet shared financial goals, such as buying a home.

Combining finances

There are several different ways to combine funds. Some couples keep their financial accounts separate and divide expenses equitably. Others open a joint account for shared expenses as well as keep their own personal accounts. Many pool all their money into a shared account.



Decide...

- ✓ How much you will invest?
- ✓ How much you will deposit in savings each month?
- ✓ How much will be set aside for emergencies?
- ✓ How much should each of you be able to spend as you wish?
- ✓ Will both of you have full-time jobs, or will one of you work part-time or stay home?
- ✓ If one of you has higher income, will you each pay an equal amount for joint expenses or pay a percentage of your income?

Agree on a budget

It's important to create a realistic budget. Have an open discussion to figure out short- and long-term financial goals that will work for both of you.

Who's in charge of our money?

It's a good idea to decide who will manage your money. Who will keep track of your checking, savings, credit cards, loans, investment accounts or bill payment? You can divide the responsibility if it makes sense for you, but both of you should be aware of where your money is going. If you don't identify these responsibilities upfront, bills may go unpaid and accounts might get neglected.

Agree to have frequent meetings to discuss your finances to make sure you're sticking to your budget and are on track toward meeting goals. If you anticipate major expenses, discuss how you'll handle them. Having these financial discussions before you marry may not be a very romantic thing to do, but they'll help ensure your relationship remains happy, stable and strong.