

# Central Newsline

**Upcoming Holidays:**

**Monday, October 10  
Columbus Day  
CU CLOSED**



**Your Debit Card is Still Free at NMCCU!**

Lately there has been plenty of news about the big banks such as Bank of America and Wells Fargo beginning to charge their customers for use of their debit card. We just wanted to let you know that at New Mexico Central Credit Union this is still a free service to our members.

For our members that only have a savings account with us, here are a few of the advantages of adding a checking account with us:

- No monthly maintenance fee if you have direct deposit OR a balance of \$500 at all times during the month.
- Free online banking.
- Free BillPay with unlimited transactions.
- Unlimited check writing privileges.
- Free MasterCard debit card with 24/7 fraud monitoring.

- Access to over 4,400 shared branching locations nationwide that accept lobby transactions such as deposits, withdrawals and loan Payments.
- Over 28,000 free ATMs nationwide to use through the Co-Op Network.

Remember, your membership with NMCCU can be extended to your family members and friends living within Bernalillo County so be sure to let them know the savings they could have by opening an account with us.

Our goal is to serve you as your primary financial institution- providing competitive dividends on savings and retirement accounts and affordable rates on all types of loans. For your protection, all deposits are insured up to \$250,000 by the National Credit Union Administration, a U.S. government agency.

New Mexico Central Credit Union is dedicated to building relationships by delivering valued banking solutions. That means we're constantly striving to improve our wide range of services to help meet your financial goals. After all, as a member, you're part owner of the Credit Union!

If you have any questions about our checking account or any other type of account with NMCCU please contact us by calling 505-266-8611 or emailing us at [cuinfo@nmccu.org](mailto:cuinfo@nmccu.org) or come stop by and visit with one of our amazing Member Services Representatives.



**7 Tips on Saving for the Holidays**

How to Save for the Holidays is something everyone worries about, especially when it gets to be this time of year. . Whether you're saving up for gifts, a trip, or anything else, it's important to learn how to save for the holidays. You want to make sure you have enough money for the things you want without running out of money for the things you need.

**Eat in for a few months:**

One of the best tips for how to save for the holidays is to stop eating out so often. You don't even necessarily have to stop eating out, but if you just make sure to limit yourself, that money can be better spent during the holidays. Presents, trips, and holiday meals get expensive, but you'll be sur-

prised at how much you can save if you just eat in more often!

**Know what you'll be spending:**

It's never too early to start planning for what you'll be doing. If you know you want to have a holiday party or a big meal for your friends and family, start now! You can start planning for things like drinks, decorations, food, and so on, so you'll have a decent estimate of the amount of money you'll need.

**Cut out where you can:**

In addition to not eating out, when you're figuring out how to save for the holidays, cutting back is absolutely essential. For the time being, cut back on your own luxuries wherever you can, even if it's something simple like taking your lunch to work or coloring your own hair at home. Believe me, those

savings will add up fast!

**Get your lists and buy early:**

This tip involves acting like your beloved and very much adored mother: nagging! Start nagging your friends and family members for lists of what they'd like early - like in the summer! That way, if any of them procrastinate, you can keep nagging them and finally get their lists in the fall. That way, you can start buying things early, before the holiday rush - and that makes it possible to save lots!

**Start a savings account ASAP:**

By starting a savings account just for holiday spending right now, you'll be able to save back a lot of money. It may be hard to learn how to save for the holidays using this method, because money is tight for a lot of people. However, try just putting \$25 to \$50 back

every week. You'll have a hidden cache, and you'll be so happy you do when the holiday rush hits!

**Entertain at home:**

By entertaining in your home instead of going out to the movies or something, you can also save a lot. Have your friends over for drinks instead of going out for them. You'll all have fun, but you'll be saving back tons of money.

**Scope out sales:**

Finding great sales is the best tip for how to save for the holidays. Take advantage of Black Friday and Cyber Monday when the time comes. Scan the papers for big sales in between now and then. You can save even when you spend, if you do it right!

## Budget Basics for College Students

For most students, college is the first time that they have been away from home for any length of time. It may also be the first time that they have managed their own budgets. If you find yourself in this position, knowing how to handle money and how to make it last may be a foreign concept. There are several practical steps that you can take to survive college without running out of money.

### Work Out Your Available Funds

Before you can set up a budget or spending plan, you need to know what you have to work with. You may have incoming funds from many sources such as college savings plans, loans and grants, scholarships, part time jobs and parents. Write down how much income you expect to have during each term and, most importantly, the timing of it. This allows you to plan your spending more effectively. If you have funds that are not yet certain, like an award you have not yet been granted, leave those funds out of your budget so that you don't spend based on money that might never materialize.

### Plan Out Your Spending

Most of your college spending will be known upfront. You know how much you have to spend on tuition,

books, room and board, and other school costs. Expenses such as groceries or utilities are not as certain and you will have to estimate what you will need to spend. If you buy your own groceries and make your own meals, plan on spending at least \$50 a week on the basics like personal grooming and cleaning supplies. Be sure to budget for extras such as outings with friends. If you set your budget up to be too restrictive, you are more likely to end up blowing the budget completely. Try to be realistic with your projections.

### Set Aside Emergency Funds

Nothing ever goes exactly as planned, especially when it comes to finances. Keep at least a few hundred dollars in a savings account in case you have an unexpected expense. Your car could break down or you may need to buy a textbook you weren't aware of at the last minute. Keep a cushion for these types of events and you won't find yourself out of money part way through the term.

### Track All of Your Spending

Budgeting is only half the battle, but it is useless unless you keep track of what you spend and compare against what you thought you were going to spend. There are several ways to do this, from simply writing it

down in a notebook, to setting up a computerized spreadsheet, to buying a program like Quicken.

### Pay Attention to Your Credit Card

Many people obtain their first credit card in college. Credit card companies are often generous with the credit they give students so that they are a customer for life. Credit cards can be a useful way to build your credit score, which will be important when you begin working and buy a house or car. Credit cards can also ruin your credit score for several years if you do not handle them responsibly. Keep your credit limit low and do not allow the company to raise it. Pay your balance every month on time. If you must carry a balance, pay at least the minimum required every month and keep your balance less than 30% of your limit.

### The Bottom Line

Responsibly managing limited funds in college can be the difference between having a fun and comfortable term, and eating ramen noodles three times a day for a month. It also teaches you the financial management skills you will need after college. (For additional reading, check out [Stop Procrastinating!](#) [Enroll In A College Savings Plan.](#))

Content from [www.investopedia.com](http://www.investopedia.com)

## Community Events

### Corn Maze Fun

Find your way through the twists-and-turns of a corn field turned into a maze at the annual Rio Grande Community Farm "Maize Maze." Every autumn, the Maize Maze attracts visitors to the tall corn stalks cut into a maze. Walking through this maze, visitors chose their routes for a fun and rewarding outing. The 2011 Maize Maze theme is "Dinosaurs". Solving the Maze is a great interactive family or group activity. Information stations inside the maze providing hints to explorers. Depending on how carefully you choose – and how many times you get lost! –

"solving" the Maze takes about an hour. Proceeds from the Maze fund farm operations, including growing corn for wildlife and next year's Maze. The 2011 Maize Maze is made in partnership with the New Mexico Museum of Natural History & Science and the City of Albuquerque's Open Space Division.

#### Schedule

The Maize Maze is open through Oct. 31, 2011.

#### Hours

Mondays - Thursdays: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Fridays - Saturdays: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.  
Sundays: 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.

#### Location

1701 Montañito NW

### Admission

Adults (12 and older): \$7  
Children (3-11): \$5  
Children younger than 3: Free

### Creeping, Crawling and Carnivorous Show

Everything in this show bites, stabs, sticks, stings or stinks! This special show features creepy, crawly insects, arachnids and reptiles from around the world. Get a bug's eye-view into a world you have never seen. Learn all the ways that these creatures are a vital part of our environment. From hairy tarantulas to shiny scorpions and from venomous snakes to orb-weaving spiders, the animals make this show the perfect adventure

for the Halloween season.

They will be wriggling, writhing, squirming and slithering in the Botanic Garden showroom.

#### Schedule

Sep 24, 2011 09:00 AM - Nov 06, 2011 05:00 PM

#### Location

Botanic Garden  
2601 Central Ave NW

#### Admission

Included with regular ticket purchase:  
Adults (13 and older): \$7  
Children (3-12) and Seniors (65+): \$5