

InTouch

A quarterly publication of Keesler Federal Credit Union | Summer 2021

**Fund Your Summer
with Credit Card
Rewards!**





James Hollingsworth
Chairman,
Board of Directors

Happy summer! What a great time to get outdoors, be active or just relax with friends and loved ones. While you're firing up the grill, Keesler Federal is focused on delivering exceptional products that not only save you money, but also pay you back! For example, since launching Kasasa checking last year, members have earned over \$940,000 in dividends. Also, members who've taken advantage of our exceptionally priced credit cards introduced in 2019 have enjoyed over \$4.4 million in cash, merchandise and travel rewards.

I am pleased to share that your credit union recently achieved an important new milestone. As of May, Keesler Federal has surpassed the \$4 billion mark in total assets. What does this mean for you? Well, it signifies the strength and stability of our member-owned financial cooperative, which continued to grow even during an economically challenging time. It also means we operate in a strategically sound manner that enables us to support the dreams and aspirations of members like you by funding more loans, offering highly competitive rates, and giving back to members and the communities we serve. Lastly, it is confirmation that, as Keesler Federal approaches its 75th anniversary in 2022, your credit union is here for the long haul and committed to making a positive difference in people's lives.

On the community front, Keesler Federal recently teamed up with Beau Rivage Resort & Casino to host Heroes at Fallen Oak, a memorable day of golf celebrating local first responders. This was another way, along with our annual first responder awards, to show appreciation for the selfless contributions of these brave individuals. We are also busily preparing for the third Backpacks for Bright Futures event, which provides free backpacks and school supply kits to public school districts for distribution to incoming kindergarteners.

Don't forget to share the benefits of Keesler Federal membership with your friends! By using our referral program, you'll earn bonuses for those who join and meet certain criteria. Remember, no military affiliation is required, so many people you know are likely eligible for membership.

As always, thank you for selecting Keesler Federal as your financial partner. We look forward to assisting you and extend warmest wishes for a healthy and enjoyable summer.

Yours in service,

James Hollingsworth



Backpacks for Bright Futures

As the 2021 school year approaches, Keesler Federal is once again helping Coastal Mississippi kindergarteners begin their academic journey on the right foot. The now award-winning Backpacks for Bright Futures campaign will provide backpacks filled with essential school supplies to local public school districts. These school districts in George, Hancock, Harrison, Jackson, Pearl River and Stone counties will pick up the supplies and deliver them to their new kindergarteners before their first day of school. We are honored for this opportunity to give back to many families in the communities we serve.

Do you know a kindergartener who will receive a Keesler Federal backpack?

We would love to see it! Please tag posts, pics and videos on social media with #KFCUBrightFutures.



HEROES

AT FALLEN OAK

Anytime is a Good Time to Reward Yourself

Rewarding our members is a hallmark of the way Keesler Federal does business. Whether through innovations such as the monthly Member Giveback program or consistently delivering exceptionally competitive rates on loans and deposit accounts, and a myriad of free financial services, making sure you can count on getting the best value possible matters to us.

Take, for example, Keesler Federal's extraordinary family of Visa credit cards. Not only do they all offer the most competitive starting variable rate in the industry, but if you have the Visa Signature or Platinum card, you're also earning significant

rewards for every dollar spent using your card. Imagine that -- credit cards that not only cost less, but also pay you back! You'd be surprised how quickly your rewards balance can grow simply by using your card for everyday purchases. A smart way to maximize your rewards is to use your card for everything you would ordinarily buy throughout the month with cash or from your checking account, earn points for those purchases, and then pay the card balance off at one time.

So, how do you check your points balance and redeem them for rewards such as cash back (Visa Signature only), merchandise, gift



cards or travel? It's easy. Just log in to your Keesler Federal online banking account and click on the CUREwards widget. It's important to do this regularly because unused points will eventually expire. You can also view and redeem points at [curewards.com/Login](https://www.kfcu.com/curewards/Login).



Don't have a Keesler Federal credit card yet? Stop missing out on valuable rewards by applying today at <https://www.kfcu.org/save-spend-borrow/credit-cards>

Under a clear blue sky on April 20, 80 enthusiastic golfers teed off for a day of celebration, camaraderie and competition at Fallen Oak, South Mississippi's premier championship course. What made this gathering special were the participants, who all hailed from various Gulf Coast first responder organizations, including law enforcement agencies and fire departments. The inaugural Heroes at Fallen Oak Invitational was hosted by Keesler Federal Credit Union and Beau Rivage Resort & Casino to honor the commitment and sacrifices of these brave professionals with a rare and relaxing day away from the front lines. "We put on this event for one reason, and that is to say thank you," said Andy Swoger, Keesler Federal President and CEO.

The friendly "battle of the badges" was also an opportunity to reconnect and reflect on the extraordinary challenges faced during the past year, giving players a chance to take part in an event that felt normal again. "It's amazing that we can all get together and that we haven't been together for a year," said Sheriff Troy Peterson of Harrison County. "It really means a lot and we appreciate them putting this on for us."

Hurricane Proof Your Finances Too



If you've lived on the Gulf Coast for at least one summer, you know it's not a matter of "if" but "when" a tropical storm of some magnitude will visit. Those prepared in advance of these storms can clearly come out ahead in terms of personal and property safety, as well as peace of mind. When anticipating a storm, remember your financial prep as well. Keesler Federal Credit Union is already prepared to be of service in case of a major weather event. Further reduce

the stress of an evacuation by signing up now for the free Keesler Federal Everywhere Services. **Just download the mobile app at [kfcu.org /services/everywhere](http://kfcu.org/services/everywhere)**, for access to cash and financial services you need regardless of your location or the time of day.

Hurricanes aren't the only cause of evacuations. Wildfires, flash floods, mudslides, earthquakes and chemical spills can displace anyone from almost anywhere. If you do evacuate, have your Keesler Federal account information with you.

A Shared Branch network credit union in the area you've evacuated to will enable you to conduct transactions on your Keesler Federal account.

You can pre-search for participating locations at www.kfcu.org > Contact KFCU > Branches and ATMs, type in your city of choice and look for the "Co-op Shared Branches" symbol.

Make Deposits Any Time with DepositNOW.



Can't get to a Keesler Federal branch to deposit your check? There's no need to panic with DepositNOW! You can rest easy knowing you can deposit any U.S. check from anywhere, at anytime. Download the Keesler Federal Everywhere app to your smartphone and follow this simple procedure:

Open the Keesler Federal Everywhere app; endorse the back of the check with your signature, the last four digits of your account number and write "For Mobile Deposit Only". Then, take a picture of the front and back and "send." Your deposit will go directly into your Keesler Federal account soon after your transaction is verified. DepositNOW is available to all members with a Keesler Federal checking account.

Learn more about DepositNOW at: www.kfcu.org > Online & Mobile Banking.

Sign up now for Keesler Federal Everywhere through our mobile app or at kfcu.org

Thinking of Building or Renovating?

Read This First



When building or renovating a part of your home, you may wonder which type of construction loan you should use: a one-time close loan or multiple loans. The type of loan that's best for you will depend on your situation, and each type of loan has its pros and cons you'll need to consider.

One-Time Close Loans automatically convert to a permanent mortgage once you complete your home - so one upfront closing, and one fixed rate. Keesler Federal will lend up to 70% of the appraised value with a 30% down payment plus closing costs.

Two-Time Close Loans offer construction financing only. As you are nearing completion of your new home, you will need to refinance the construction loan into a permanent mortgage. That means two closings with two different rates. Keesler Federal will lend up to 95% of the appraised value with a 5% down payment plus closing costs.

Renovation Loans offer renovation financing only, such as home improvements and add-ons. As you are nearing completion of the planned renovations, you will need to refinance the renovation loan into a permanent mortgage. This transaction is also considered a two-time close construction loan with two closings

and two different rates. The minimum loan is \$50,000, with terms up to 12 months. Keesler Federal will lend up to 95% of the as-completed value with a 5% down payment plus closing costs.

- **Single-close loans can be simpler and more secure with locking rates.**
- **Multiple loans may have lower rates and more flexibility.**

To get a construction to permanent loan, your house must be your primary residence; owned and occupied by you.



What's a friend worth?

Up to \$500!

Refer-a-friend and earn up to \$500 a year!

It's easy to do!

Share Keesler Federal via Facebook, Messenger, Twitter, WhatsApp, or email. Once your referred friend opens a Keesler Federal account and meets the qualifications,* you both will receive a \$25 Visa® digital gift card. As more friends join, you'll earn more cards up to \$500 per year.

Here's how to get started:

Go to refer.kfcu.org and begin sharing Keesler Federal with your friends on any of the above listed digital platforms. Friends only need to meet one of the following qualifying actions:*

- **Open a new loan with a minimum balance of \$5,000**
- **Receive approval for one of Keesler Federal's credit cards**
- **Open a certificate with a minimum of \$1,000 balance**
- **Open a checking account and make 5 debit card transactions or one direct deposit within the first 30 days.**

Membership eligibility required. Referred friends must be a new Keesler Federal membership. Existing members cannot be referred. Keesler Federal employees are not eligible for referral reward. \$25 digital Visa gift card paid within 45 days of account opening when criteria is met. No cash reward. Maximum annual reward \$500. Non-commercial accounts only. Only available on referrals after March 1, 2021.

For more details and help in determining your best option, check with a Keesler Federal construction loan officer. Visit kfcu.org and make an appointment today!

Final rate and loan to value based on credit. 5% contingency due on construction contract amount.

Cryptocurrency Explained, Sort Of.

You've probably heard of Bitcoin, Ethereum and even Dogecoin cryptocurrencies. But did you know there are over 10,000 other cryptocurrencies trading publically right now? So, what is a cryptocurrency anyway? Briefly, it's a digital or virtual currency that is secured by cryptography, which makes it nearly impossible to counterfeit or double-spend.

Cryptocurrency can be exchanged online for goods and services but you'll need to exchange real currency for the cryptocurrency to access the good or service. Many companies have issued their own currencies, often called tokens, to be traded specifically for the good or service that the company provides. Think of them as arcade tokens or casino chips.

Why use cryptocurrency?

Cryptocurrencies work using a technology that manages and records transactions called "blockchain." Blockchain's processes establish trust, accountability and transparency while streamlining business

processes. Virtually anything of value can be tracked and traded on a blockchain network; reducing risk and cutting cost for all involved. Part of the appeal of this technology is its security, which can outperform traditional payment systems.

Some see cryptocurrencies, such as Bitcoin, as the currency of the future and are hurrying to buy them before they become more valuable. Supporters also like the fact that cryptocurrency removes central banks from managing the money supply, since over time these banks tend to reduce the value of money via inflation.

Cryptocurrencies continue to proliferate by raising money through initial coin offerings, or ICOs. The total value of all cryptocurrencies on May 27, 2021, was more than \$1.7 trillion—down from April high of \$2.2 trillion, according to CoinMarketCap.

Are cryptocurrencies a good investment? Cryptocurrencies may go up in value, but many investors see them as mere speculations, not real investments. The reason? Just like real currencies, cryptocurrencies



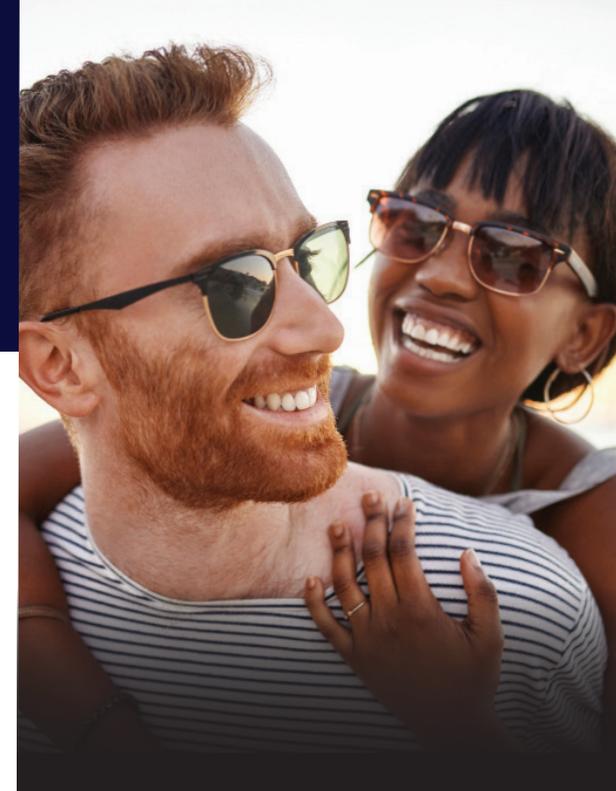
generate no cash flow, so for you to profit, someone has to pay more for the currency than you did.

That's what's called "the greater fool" theory of investment. Contrast that to a well-managed business, which increases its value over time by growing the profitability and cash flow of the operation.

Are cryptocurrencies legal? There's no question that they're legal in the United States, though China has essentially banned their use. Ultimately, whether they're legal depends on each individual country.

if you prefer to invest your money in something less volatile than cryptocurrencies, check out Keesler Federal's share certificates.

nerdwallet.com - James Royal, Ph.D., Kevin Voigt, investopedia.com, ibm.com, coinmarketcap.com



Sunshine, s'mores, and something special from Mastercard®



You could win up to \$15,000 when you use your Mastercard from 6/1/2021 until 8/31/2021.*

*No Purchase Necessary. Void where prohibited. Existing Mastercard cardholders who are legal residents of the 50 U.S. or DC, and legal age of majority before 6/1/21. PIN-based debit, international & corporate transactions ineligible. Ends 8/31/21. Visit jhasurprisespromo.com for Official Rules & complete details.

Learn more at
jhasurprisespromo.com

Pay Your Keesler Federal Loan Digitally



Paying on time is faster and easier when you pay digitally.

If you're still paying your Keesler Federal loan or credit card by mailing a check, going to a branch or calling the Member Contact Center, you can simplify your life by going digital. Making your payment online through your desktop or mobile device offers several important benefits

- Free, fast and more convenient
- Accessible 24/7 on desktop or mobile
- Reduce vulnerability to identify theft by eliminating paper checks that can be lost or stolen
- Ability to make one-time payments or set up recurring payments

Keesler Federal Everywhere Online or Mobile Banking

- If you haven't already done so, creating your Keesler Federal online banking account lets you easily transfer funds from your Keesler Federal checking or savings account to your loan account.
- You can also link an external bank account to your Keesler Federal online banking and use it when paying your Keesler Federal loan.
- Either method can be used to make one-time payments, or you may opt to set up recurring payments, so you won't have to remember to manually make monthly payments.

Keesler Federal Payment Portal

- If Keesler Federal isn't your primary financial institution and you prefer not to sign up for full online banking

capabilities, you can make one-time or recurring digital payments for your loan or credit card fusing an external bank account or debit card through the payment portal.

- Online payments are 100% free and offer same day processing.
- Additionally, you can elect to create a username and password or use the Express Pay option to make a one-time payment as a guest.

Learn more and access payment methods at kfcu.org/save-spend-borrow/pay-my-loan.



A Commitment to Member Service

Extraordinary Employees. Extraordinary Credit Union.

Keesler Federal team members believe in the credit union philosophy, and it shows in their tenure. Our team members are dedicated to making a difference in the lives of members, and, in turn, Keesler Federal has made a difference in their lives. This may explain why so many people begin and end their careers with Keesler Federal.

Keesler Federal team members are recognized for service in 5-year increments (3-year in the UK). We are proud to recognize the following team members who have service anniversaries during the second quarter of 2021:

25 YEARS OF SERVICE

Donna DiSalvo, *Digital Services Mgr, Member Contact Center*

20 YEARS OF SERVICE

Christine Edwards, *Title Release Processor, Titles & Insurance*

Pam Bush, *Asst Branch Mgr, Pascagoula*
Diane Kennedy, *Enterprise Applications Mgr, IT*

15 YEARS OF SERVICE

Miriah Bayless, *Member Contact Specialist, Member Contact Center*

5 YEARS OF SERVICE

Carlene Eubank, *Asst Compliance Officer, Risk & Compliance*

Vincent Lugo, *Systems Administrator, IT*
Olivia Newman, *OJT Teller Supervisor, Seaway*
Jonathon Smith, *Network Engineer, IT*
Christina Carter, *Teller Service Rep, Picayune*
Courtney Delancey, *Teller Service Rep, Ocean Springs*
Shannon Garrett, *Sr. Commercial Loan Officer, Business Services*
Brooks Gist, *Credit Risk Officer, Lending*
Jesse Hebert, *Branch Manager, Cross Gate*
Rebecca Heller, *OJT Financial Service Specialist, Seaway*
Tammy Howell, *Payroll & Benefits Mgr, HR*
Jenay Magee, *Financial Service Rep, Pascagoula*
Kristi Seidule, *Retail Support Specialist, Member Contact Center*

Melissa Beebe, *Marketing Data Mgr, Marketing*
George Drury, *Mortgage Loan Originator, Mortgages*
Carolin Faye, *Internet Mortgage Loan Officer, Mortgages*
Andrew Swoger, *President/CEO, Executive Offices*

The Top 10 Retirement Planning Excuses

Ten common "reasons" why someone does not plan for retirement.

A Message from the Keesler Federal Financial Group

William E. Morrison,
Dennis Liverett,
Ron Weatherly,
Nathan Roberts and
Cynthia Garcia are
Financial Advisors with
Keesler Financial Group
located at Keesler Federal CU.

#10: "I'm too busy"

Stop procrastinating. How does the saying go? The best time to plant a tree is 30 years ago. The second best time is ... TODAY.

#9: "It's too soon"

It's NEVER too soon. The sooner you start planning, the better chance you stand of having the kind of retirement you want.

#8: "It's too late"

Think again. Even if you've already retired, it's important to consider how you're receiving income and how long it will last.

#7: "I don't need to"

This one baffles me. If you're simply giving monthly to a savings account and hoping for the best, you may be in for an unpleasant surprise someday.

#6: "I don't have enough money to get started"

Starting small is better than not starting at all, and if you plan well, you'll eventually have more to work with.

#5: "My finances are a mess"

Consider speaking with a Financial Professional who can look at your complete financial picture and help you to develop a plan to make your "mess" work for you.

#4: "The Government will take care of me"

If you're planning to retire on Social Security alone, I would advise you to create a back-up plan at the very least.

#3: "Between my savings and my 401(k), I'll be fine"

Saving for retirement without an income distribution plan could be a mistake. Have you considered inflation? Taxes? If you live to 100, will the money last?

#2: "I don't want to think about it"

If you bite the bullet now and put a firm plan in motion, you may not have to think about it again for quite some time.

#1: "I don't know how"

If you knew everything there was to know about financial planning, you'd probably be a financial advisor yourself. If you're putting off retirement planning because you don't know how to begin, consider speaking to a professional who does.

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AdTrax FR-3619933.1-0621-0723

Highlighted Share & Loan Rates

Shares

Share Savings (with Compounding)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance less than \$5,000	.15%	.15%
Balance \$5,000 or more	.20%	.20%
Christmas Savings	.30%	.30%

\$5 minimum to open share savings

High Interest Money Market Account (HIMMA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balance \$2,500-\$9,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$10,000-\$49,999.99	.30%	.30%
Balance \$50,000-\$99,999.99	.35%	.35%
Balance \$100,000 and over	.40%	.40%

\$2,500 minimum to open account and to earn dividends

Checking Accounts

Kasasa Cash Checking (qualifying accounts)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Balances up to \$25,000	3.00%	.92%
Balances over \$25,000	.40%	.40%
Non-Qualified	.05%	.05%

\$25 minimum to open account

Individual Retirement Account (IRA)

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)	Yield (APY)
Traditional	.75%	.75%
Roth	.75%	.75%

IRAs are federally insured separately up to \$250,000

View current rates at www.kfcu.org/rates

Share rates listed above are effective as of July 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice. See your June statement for the dividend rate paid for the period ending June 30, 2021. Fees assessed could reduce earnings on accounts.

Federally Insured by NCUA

Loans

New Auto Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 24 months	as low as 2.14% APR
25-36 months	as low as 2.24% APR
37-48 months	as low as 2.44% APR
49-60 months	as low as 2.59% APR
61-72 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 3.04% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$28.78 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 2.24% for 36 months.

New RV/Travel Trailers

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
37-48 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 5.00% APR
49-60 months (\$15,000 & over)	as low as 5.25% APR
61-72 months (\$20,000 & over)	as low as 5.50% APR
73-84 months (\$25,000 & over)	as low as 6.24% APR
85-144 months (\$35,000 & over)	as low as 7.25% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$23.09 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 5.00% for 48 months.

Credit Cards

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Visa Signature	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Platinum	as low as 3.25% APR
Visa Classic	as low as 3.25% APR

Transaction fees per transaction: cash advance \$5; ISA fee on international transactions 1% Rates are variable based on prime.

Signature Loans

	Annual Percentage Rate (APR)
Up to 36 months	as low as 8.24% APR
37-48 months	as low as 8.74% APR
49-60 months (\$10,000 & over)	as low as 9.24% APR

Example: Monthly payments are approx. \$31.55 per month per \$1000 borrowed at 8.24% for 36 months.

Share Secured Loans

2.00% above prior quarter share dividend rate (Up to amount of available balance - up to 120 months)

Apply for your loan by phone, 1-888-KEESLER (533-7537), online at kfcu.org, or visit any branch location.

Rates marked "as low as" vary based on credit history. Certain restrictions may apply. Rates are effective as of July 1, 2021 and subject to change without notice.



Keesler Federal Financial Group

Call (228) 385-4558 for your no-cost, no-obligation appointment today!

The smart choice for your back to school needs

Going back to school is exciting and we want to help make that transition easy. With a Keesler Federal Visa Signature card, you can enjoy:



As low as **3.25% APR*** No annual fee
2% cash back or 3 points for every dollar spent

And great rewards!



Go study,
we got you.



Membership and credit eligibility

Apply now at [kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org)

*APR=Annual Percentage Rate.
Rate good as of 7/15/2021 and is variable based on prime.
Actual rates vary based on credit history.

Do more, wherever,
whenever and however
you want with

DepositNOW

Deposit checks electronically
from your mobile phone.

Learn more at [kfcu.org/services/everywhere/](https://www.kfcu.org/services/everywhere/)

Keesler Federal
CREDIT UNION

P.O. Box 7001, Biloxi, MS 39534-7001

Important to you. Important to us.
[kfcu.org](https://www.kfcu.org)

