



**This kid's a planner!**

Dear Dave,  
What would be your advice for someone who is renting an apartment but has never rented before? I'm 16, and I'm trying to create a plan for when I get out on my own in a couple of years. I've never had any debt, and don't have a credit score. Is it going to be hard to find a place to live?

Riley

Dear Riley,  
I get where you're coming from. A lot of people believe it's hard to get an apartment without a credit score, and that's just not the case. In most cases, if you've got money for a deposit and proof of employment, you can find a little apartment somewhere.

Anytime you're renting it should be because you're in a stage of your life where you're not going to be in the area long, you're saving money to buy a home, or you're working your way out from under a lot of debt. Think of it as "rent patience." Renting should be a temporary stop along the road, not a way of life. You're parked and you're on hold until you're ready for a house or you get your finances in order.

I don't hate apartments, and renting isn't evil. But renting for a decade or two is not a smart move. How much do you want to pay for patience? The least amount possible. You want something clean and safe, but nothing too fancy. You don't need a racquetball court, skylight or hot tub.

I love that you're a planner, Riley. Keep looking ahead and thinking toward the future!

Dave

**Don't fall for it!**

Dear Dave,  
Could you explain why buying a new car at 0% interest isn't a good idea?

Raina

Dear Raina,  
The only way you have a chance of getting 0% interest on a new car is if you have perfect credit and pay full MSRP (manufacturer's suggested retail price). But, if you walk onto a car lot with cash, and haggle with the salesperson a little bit, they'll knock a bunch off the sticker price. If you can buy the car for less than the 0% interest gimmick, how is that 0%? See what I'm saying? The cash buyer pays less.

Besides, you shouldn't even consider buying a brand new car, unless you're debt-free and have \$1 million or more in the bank. You lose a ton in value the second you drive a new car off the lot. How is that 0%? A new car also loses about 60% of its value in the first four years

after you buy it. How is that 0%?

The whole 0% interest gimmick tricks a lot of unsuspecting folks into buying something they don't need and can't afford!

—Dave

**Don't put your home on the line!**

Dear Dave,

We'd like to start preparing for the future, but our debt is preventing us from investing for retirement. Would it be okay to use a home equity line of credit to start investing? We were thinking the eventual returns might justify doing this.

Nick

Dear Nick,

No! Never put something as important and meaningful as your home on the line just for the sake of investing. Do not borrow against your home!

I'm guessing you're new to my way of doing things, so let's start from the beginning. First, follow the Baby Steps. Getting \$1,000 in the bank as a starter emergency fund is Baby Step 1. Next, pay off all your debts from smallest to largest—except for your home—using the debt snowball method. That's Baby Step 2. It's time then to revisit your emergency fund, and bulk it up to a full three to six months of expenses in Baby Step 3.

Now, it's time to really start thinking about your future and retirement. In Baby Step 4, take 15 percent of your gross household income and start investing it for retirement. Start with your company's 401(k) plan, up to the full employer match. Then, invest the rest into Roth IRAs. One for you, and one for your spouse, if you're married.

Here's the thing, Nick. Investing becomes easy at this point, because you've freed up your income. And that's the most important wealth-building tool you have!

—Dave

**Many benefits to budgeting**

Dear Dave,

Some friends recently introduced me to your ideas for handling money. I've got to admit a lot of it makes sense, but I'm not sure why you're so adamant about budgeting. Can't you get a good idea of your finances by checking your accounts and balances online regularly?

Parker

Dear Parker,

This is a great topic, especially for those who are new to the idea of getting serious about their finances and gaining control of their money. A lot of folks wonder why I'm so intense about budgeting on paper, on purpose, every month. Part of the reason is they don't understand all the

**\*Superintendent**

(Continued from page 1.) continues moving the district toward higher performance and greater participation in the global community. I'm grateful to have been part of the effort. Holmes County has great potential if allowed to blossom." Echoing Henderson's sentiments was Board of Education President, Anthony Anderson. "On behalf of the board, we appreciate Dr. Henderson's contributions to the district and wish him much success in his future endeavors," Anderson said.

During his tenure, laptops

benefits—financial and otherwise—that come with giving every dollar a name.

The financial benefit is a no-brainer, so it's the perfect place to start. I've been teaching people to live on a budget for many years. The reason? It never fails. People who make, and live by, a zero-based budget every month are much more likely to win with money over time. It's not always easy when you're first getting started, but it's worth it.

There's also an emotional benefit to consider. I can't think of many things more stressful than running out of money before the end of the month. If you don't keep a detailed accounting of every dollar that comes in, and where it goes, you're inviting an incredible amount of fear and uncertainty into your life.

Another benefit is where relationships are concerned. Money problems and fights over money are the leading causes of divorce in America. I've seen how proper budgeting principles can bring a sense of healing, hope, and restoration to families. During budget meetings, couples learn to talk to each other like never before. They open up, share their dreams and fears, learn how to draw boundaries, and plan for the future. And this benefit isn't just for the married crowd. Folks who are single can develop more personal discipline, and find accountability, that has an impact on their relationships, too.

It's tempting to think the idea of "on paper, on purpose" is nothing but a catchphrase. But it's so much more. Budgeting is absolutely the key to gaining control of your finances!

—Dave

*\*Dave Ramsey is CEO of Ramsey Solutions. He has authored seven best-selling books, including The Total Money Makeover. The Dave Ramsey Show is heard by more than 16 million listeners each week on 600 radio stations and multiple digital platforms. Follow Dave on the web at daveramsey.com and on Twitter at @DaveRamsey.*

**\*State Tax**

(Continued from page 1.) items are less than \$100," says MDR.

were provided to all administrators, teachers and students. New textbooks and curricular materials were purchased for math, science, social studies and literacy for grades 3-12. Professional development was provided to teachers. Programs were implemented to develop principals and assist teachers in obtaining certification.

"It is my sincere prayer and hope that the students and families in Holmes County will remain a priority for generations to come," Henderson said. "I cannot wait to read about and celebrate with you as you continue on this remarkable journey of growth.

**Human skull found in Mississippi Sound identified**

**Associated Press**

Part of a skull found trapped in a dredging machine last month in Mississippi has been identified.

Hancock County Coroner Jim Faulk said there was no way to tell who the skull belonged to without performing DNA tests.

The skull was sent to Jackson, and Faulk hoped to identify the person to provide family members with answers.

Forensic analysis done by anthropologists verified

Examples listed for eligible items include baby clothes, caps, blouses, boots, bras, coats and wraps, dresses, golf clothes, hats, jeans, nightgowns, pants, pajamas, panty hose, raincoats, religious clothing, shoes,

shorts, socks, swimsuits, ties, tights, work clothes and work out clothes.

For the full list of eligible items go to <https://www.dor.ms.gov/Business/Documents/2020%20Sales%20Tax%20Holiday.pdf>

**Over \$5 million awarded to regional planning and development districts**

**Press Release**

On Friday, July 17, United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson (D-MS) announced the United States Department of Commerce Economic Development Administration (EDA) has awarded over \$5 Million to Planning and Development

Districts.

The funds are a component of EDA's CARES Act Recovery Assistance Revolving Loan Fund. Funds will be available to borrowers in their respective geographical regions. Also, the funds will be used for administrative cost to address the needs of small businesses affected by COVID-19.

Planning districts, fund amounts and coverage areas include:

- North Central Planning and Development District, Inc.; \$1,562,000; Attala, Carroll, Grenada, Holmes, Leflore, Montgomery, and Yalobusha Counties;
- South Delta Planning and Development District, Inc.; \$2,200,00; Bolivar, Carroll, Coahoma, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Leflore, Panola, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica and Washington Counties;
- East Central Planning and Development District, Inc.; \$1,595,000; Clarke, Jasper, Kemper, Lauderdale, Leake, Neshoba, Newton, Scott, and Smith Counties.

much more.

Outdoor recreation is a key factor of National Recreation and Parks Month, focusing on the need for physical activity, and what better place to enjoy physical activity than during the many beautiful summer days in the month of July.

Although the many activities and celebrations can be overwhelmingly fun, the importance of physical activity should not be forgotten, and should especially be instilled in children and young adults.

The NRPA website, [nrpa.org](http://nrpa.org), contains more information and tools for communities to utilize in order to create their own list of activities and celebrations. Samples of proclamations and press releases are available for download, as well as a sample calendar of activities and important information to let everyone in the community know that July is National Recreation and Parks Month.

*James L. Cummins is executive director of Wildlife Mississippi, a non-profit, conservation organization founded to conserve, restore and enhance fish, wildlife and plant resources throughout Mississippi. Their web site is [www.wildlifemiss.org](http://www.wildlifemiss.org)*



Since 1985, America has celebrated July as National Park and Recreation Month, celebrating unbridled outdoor recreation and encouraging everyone to explore their local recreational facilities and parks in honor of summer and the beauty of nature.

Designated in 1985 as National Park and Recreation Month by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA), the month of July is ideal for small groups and families to rediscover their local parks and visit new ones. Encouraging outdoor physical activity and actively promoting parks and recreation in communities across the country, the NRPA actively supports and promotes creative celebrations through their magazine Parks & Recreation, and encourages communities and townships to submit their own celebration and activity information.

The object of the NRPA and National Park and Recreation Month isn't just to

encourage outdoor recreational activity and increase park visitation, but also to recognize and salute those who work in the parks system to make our park experience enjoyable and unforgettable. The beauty of a park can reside within our hearts and minds long after we have left, and children and adults alike will certainly enjoy the tranquility and peace of such natural serenity. We should consider the care and effort that goes into maintaining our parks by the vast number of park employees who dedicate themselves to the difficult but rewarding task of park maintenance.

You can check your park websites, or activity listings in your local papers, to find out what programs and activities may be occurring in your area in honor of National Park and Recreation Month.

Many communities celebrate enthusiastically with park pride days, park picnics, group hikes, park beautification activities, and