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SPORTS, 1B

The Times

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Socializing, saving a tricky balancing act



Gen Z and millennials spend on average about \$250 each month on activities with friends, according to a survey. Among respondents, 72% said going to a restaurant or bar is how they spend time with friends, and 32% said they go weekly or more often. GETTY IMAGES

Gen Z, millennials report overspending on social events

Rachel Barber
USA TODAY

Maria Stevens’ credit cards are maxed out, in part because she relied on them when she was laid off, but she thinks it’s also largely because she struggles to say no to invites from her friends.

After attending 30 social events in four years, she said she “crashed out” over pressure to spend on social activities in July. In one month, she was invited to several more events, baby showers, weddings and bachelorette trips, on top of planning her own birthday party.

“I’m like, I’m about to have to hide under a rock because there’s no way. ... I was very overwhelmed,” Stevens said. “And I was like maybe I’m going to have

Socializing is still important to Generation Z and millennials – 69% of whom prioritize in-person connection with friends at least weekly. But 3 in 5 say spending on social activities impacts their financial goals, according to a new Ally Bank survey.

to cut ties with some people somehow.”

Stevens, 25, is part of a generation often characterized by loneliness, and the financial strain of friendship might be one reason why. Socializing is still important to Generation Z and millennials – 69% of whom prioritize in-person connection with friends at least weekly. But 3 in 5 say spending on social activities impacts their financial goals, according to a new Ally Bank survey.

It found that overspending is widespread, not an exception, and most young adults are aware they are not budgeting effectively for their social lives.

Few young people have strict budget for socializing

When Stevens got engaged in 2023, she and her now-husband decided they would stop going to bars entirely because they were easily spending \$200 in one night – up to \$400 if they also went to dinner beforehand.

That’s close to what the average young person spends socializing per month. Gen Z and millennials spend on average about \$250 each month on activities with friends, according to

See FRIENDSHIPS, Page 3A

Styropek facing \$2.6M judgment

Patrick O'Shea
Beaver County Times
USA TODAY NETWORK

POTTER TWP. — The owner of a former Beaver County plastics plant is facing a possible state consent decree that would order it to pay more than \$2.6 million for repeated pollution of Raccoon Creek and the Ohio River.

The Department of Environmental Protection, in conjunction with non-profits Three Rivers Waterkeeper and PennEnvironment Inc., filed the decree Sept. 3 in the U.S. District Court for the Western District of Pennsylvania in Pittsburgh against BVPV Styrenics LLC and Styropek USA Inc.

Styropek makes expandable polystyrene, or plastic foam, used in packaging and other Styrofoam-like products.

See STYROPEK, Page 2A

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