**LOCAL CRESTON BUSINESS IMPACT AND OTHER**

**PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM**

**COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

**(UPDATED DAILY)**

**May 22nd at 2:30 p.m.**

From the City of Creston's Park & Recreation Department:

* The Creston Municipal Swimming Pool will NOT open this season
* Bill Sears Ball Complex will NOT open this season
* Park shelters and restrooms will remain closed until further notice
* VFW & McKinley ball fields are open - Please make sure to maintain social distancing and follow the CDC Guideline
* -----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------
* Creston Farmers' Market will open on June 1 at McKinley Park from 4 to 6:30 p.m.

**May 21st at 4:00 p.m.**

* As a reminder, First National Bank will sponsor their third Cash Mob which will take place on Friday, May 22, 2020.  Local restaurants include The Elm's Club in Creston- 641-782-2615, Kansas Street Deli in Afton - 641-344-2138 and Mondo's in Shenandoah - 712-246-1325. Begin ordering at 11:30 a.m. with $5 off single orders and $10 off double or multiple orders.  The discounts are available until each $250 donation is met.
* The Senior Salute to the Class of 2020 will take place on **Friday, May 22nd during the Get Out and Cruise Creston 2020** from 6 to 7 p.m.  They will be lined up along Adams Street headed east towards Uptown Creston.  Please give them a honk, wave and/or shout out.
* After careful consideration the Union County Historical Village will not open on Memorial.  Please stay tuned for updates.
* The Strand Theatre will continue to sell their great popcorn along with their various combos and kettle corn on Friday, Saturday and Sunday from 2 to 7 p.m.  They will also be selling their goodies on Monday, May 25th from 3 to 6 p.m. with a special bonus - Buy one large popcorn and get one 50% off.

**May 20th at 4:30 p.m.**

* Beginning on May 22nd Three Mile Lake will be open to all types of camping along with the cabins and shower house.  The shelter houses are limited to a maximum of 10 people and the fish cleaning station is limited to 4 people.
* Beginning on May 22nd the modern restrooms, shower buildings and cabins will reopen at Iowa State Parks.  Visitors are still encouraged to follow all social distancing and hygiene guidelines while in the park. Some amenities including shelters, lodges and playgrounds remain closed at this time.
* The Iowa Department of Education has announced that team practices for high school baseball and softball can begin on June 1st with games beginning on June 15th following the guidance put out for summer sports.
* Party in the Park at McKinley Park which was scheduled for June 20th has been postponed due to COVID-19.  Plans are to reschedule the event in August 2020.

**May 19th at 4:30 p.m.**

* Union County Emergency Management Coordinator Jo Duckworth thanked everyone who has made masks to help during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Even with the hundreds of masks that have been donated she says the county could still use more.  She has enough fabric to make somewhere between 200 to 300 more masks if someone want to pick up fabric from her. 641-782-1622
* Homestead Assisted Living & Memory Care is still in need of cloth masks for their residents and team members.  Masks can be deposited at their community entry.  641-782-3131
* Did you know that Pizza Ranch has Take & Bake Pizza?
* First National Bank is in the third Week of their Cash Mob which will take place on Friday, May 22, 2020.  Local restaurants include The Elm's Club in Creston- 641-782-2615, Kansas Street Deli in Afton - 641-344-2138 and Mondo's in Shenandoah - 712-246-1325. Begin ordering at 11:30 a.m. with $5 off single orders and $10 off double or multiple orders.  The discounts are available until each $250 donation is met.
* The Creston Baseball/Softball Little League Board has decided to cancel the 2020 season due to COVID-19.

**May 18th at 4:30 p.m.**

* I would like to start by thanking First National Bank, ISSB Bank, PCSB Bank, State Savings Bank and Great Western Bank and Nishna Valley Credit Union for partnering with the Chamber on Creston Bucks for Creston. This undertaking was started as a local response to the Coronavirus to assist people during the pandemic.   The Creston Area Food Pantry was kind enough to hand out over $2600.00 in Creston Bucks this past Sunday.  No limitations were placed on where the Bucks could be spent - other than Creston Chamber Members.  If you would like to be part of the next Creston Bucks for Creston giveaway please call Ellen for details and information. It is a great way to support our fellow residents and our local economy.
* Congratulations to the CCHS Class of 2020 graduating seniors.
* The Senior Salute to be held during Get Out and Cruise Creston 2020 on the 16th was postponed to Friday, May 22nd from 6 to 7 p.m.
* KSIB Auction Block starts Tuesday, May 19th at 7 a.m.
* Lori's Boutique will reopen on Tuesday, May 19th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  There will be a number of new procedures to ensure everyone's health and safety.  Please visit Lori's Boutique Facebook Page or [www.lorisboutique.net](http://www.lorisboutique.net) for listing of the procedures.  641-278-0978.
* The Learning Center of Southwest Iowa has decided to continue offering remote tutoring only through at least the month of June due to the COVID-19 pandemic.  They will then reevaluate the situation to determine if face to face tutoring can be safely resumed.  They are brainstorming some fun "virtual" camp ideas so please stay tuned.  Please email [tictossian@gmail.com](mailto:tictossian@gmail.com) or call 641-782-3849 to register your child for summer remote tutoring.
* Urgent Care at Greater Regional Health is no longer closed for lunch.  Urgent Care is open 7:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m. weekdays and 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekends in their new location.
* The Rerun Shop in Creston has not reopened and no decision has been made when this will occur. They are still not taking any donations.  They appreciate the inquiries and support.

**May 15th at 3:00 p.m.**

* Studio 101 is now open by appointment only, no walk in clients at this time.  641-782-8261.
* Creston Community High School Class of 2020 virtual Commencement Ceremony will be held on Sunday, May 17th beginning at 2 p.m.  The Commencement Ceremony Video will be posted on the PantherTV YouTube, Twitter, Facebook the the School Website following the private viewing. Congratulations to the Class of 2020.
* As a reminder Java J's will reopen on Monday, May 18th for beverages, pastries, scotcheroos and fudge. their temporary hours will be Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. No lunch will be served until they are fully staffed after June 1st.
* Southern Prairie YMCA looks forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday May 18th from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m.
* Lori's Boutique will reopen on Tuesday, May 19th from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.  There will be a number of new procedures to ensure everyone's health and safety.  Please visit Lori's Boutique Facebook Page or [www.lorisboutique.net](http://www.lorisboutique.net) for listing of the procedures.  641-278-0978.

**May 14th at 4:00 p.m.**

* **Casa de Oro** will begin offering dine-in service on Friday, May 15th along with their current carry-out.  641-782-5218.
* As a reminder, **First National Bank** will sponsor another Cash Mob at two local restaurants this Friday, May 15th.  Begin ordering at 11:30 a.m. and receive $5.00 off a single takeout order and $10 off double/multiple orders at **Casa de Oro** in Creston - 641-782-5218 and The Sanctuary in Shenandoah - 712-246-5766. The discounts are available until their $250.00 donation at each restaurant is met.
* **The following is an email received by the Chamber from the Iowa Economic Development Authority:** Please take a few moments to fill out the survey.

**New Survey Will Aid Iowa’s Economic Recovery**

Please help Iowa’s economic recovery and growth:

* 1. Take a few minutes to complete this NEW survey, developed by the University of Northern Iowa’s (UNI) Institute for Decision Making and UNI’s Strategic Marketing Services.
  2. Please forward the [**survey link**](https://t.e2ma.net/click/efo8qd/e7hmvg/2lldas) to businesses, attractions and organizations within your membership or communities.

This new survey is a follow-up to UNI’s survey of businesses in mid-March. Participation in the survey is vital to state efforts to understand the impact of the coronavirus pandemic on Iowa businesses and organizations. The Iowa Economic Development Authority will use survey results to inform public policy on recovery and growth, including potential resources for businesses.

**The deadline to complete this survey is Friday, May 22 at 5 p.m.**

While this pandemic is changing how we do business in Iowa, we look forward to entering this new phase of recovery and growth for Iowa.

**May 13th at 4:45 p.m.**

* The CCHS Virtual Awards Ceremony can be viewed on the KSIB Website tomorrow, May 14th beginning at 6 p.m.  This is a wonderful opportunity to honor the graduating seniors in the Class of 2020.
* Di Miller at 3's Company - They are getting a plan in place and will be reaching out to those who missed appointments during the coronavirus pandemic.
* Reflections Beauty - will be opening on May 18th.  They have approximately 100+ people to re-schedule. "We will get it figured out".
* Uptown Styles - Is Ready to Open
* Java J's will reopen on Monday, May 18th for beverages, pastries, scotcheroos and fudge. their temporary hours will be Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. No lunch will be served until they are fully staffed after June 1st.

**May 12th at 4:30 p.m.**

* First National Bank will sponsor another Cash Mob at two local restaurants this Friday, May 15th.  Begin ordering at 11:30 a.m. and receive $5.00 off a single takeout order and $10 off double/multiple orders at Casa de Oro in Creston - 641-782-5218 and The Sanctuary in Shenandoah - 712-246-5766. The discounts are available until their $250.00 donation at each restaurant is met.
* I Think I Can Childcare has openings in all age groups from 6 weeks to 11 years.  They have remained open during the COVID-19 pandemic and have maintained their normal operating hours.  The staff is following strict guidelines from DHS and IDPH daily.  If you have any questions don't hesitate to contact Amber or Lexi at 641-782-7117,

**May 11th at 3:45 p.m.**

* Congratulations to Chris Lane who was honored by the Creston FBLA Chapter as their Business Person of the Year honoree.
* Union County Fair is seeking Queen and Princess applications.  For more information or to access the application online visit <http://www.unioncountyfairiowa.com/queenprincess>.  Copies of the application are also available at the Union County Extension Office.  Questions may be directed to Amy Rieck at 641-202-2370 or [rieck2000@gmail.com](mailto:rieck2000@gmail.com)
* Creston Vision Clinic is now open Monday through Friday, with a limited appointment schedule. Patients are entering through the “MAIN” door which is near the Emergency entrance.  There you will be screened and Greater Regional staff will be able to guide you to our office.  Please call 641.782.7619 for appointments and information.
* Family Vision Center is open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Please call 641.782.2111 to make an appointment or for questions.
* Dr. Brian Kinkade, Walmart Vision Center is open Mondays from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. currently.  641.782.5455.
* Dr. Dan Coen, D.D.S. is now open normal hours.  641.782.8014.
* Get Out and Cruise Creston 2020 will have special guests on Saturday.  CCHS graduating seniors have been invited and asked to wear their cap and gown and stand on Adams Street (six fee apart for social distancing) from 6 to 7 p.m. as a way for the public to  recognize and honor them.

**May 8th at 4:45 p.m.**

* Buck Family Dentistry opened today, May 8th, 2020 and is now seeing patients. 641-782-4747.
* On Monday, May 11th, Dr. Wm. Todd Scott, Family & Cosmetic Dentistry will begin seeing patients. 641-782-7587.

**May 7th at 4:00 p.m.**

* Three-Mile Lake is open to self-contained campers only beginning at 8 a.m. on May 8th.  The pit-latrine at the main boat ramp is open.  The following are remaining closed - the shower house, the cabins, the lodge and the remaining pit latrines.
* The McKinley Park Campground located at McKinley Park is currently closed.
* Crest Area Theatre has postponed their production of the Beverly Hillbillies scheduled for this summer due to COVID-19.  They now are looking forward to a fun Christmas Program.
* Please remember to follow the Chamber on Facebook and Twitter for more information.

**May 6th at 4:45 p.m.**

* Great Regional Health wishes to say Happy Nurses Week to all of their nurses and thank them for all that they do.
* First National Bank invites you to be part of the CASH MOB it is sponsoring  at these local restaurants in the communities they serve - Mario's Sports Bar & Grill in Creston (641-278-1427), L Ranchito in Afton (641-347-8359)and Nishna Valley Cafe in Shenandoah (712-246-2993) -  on Friday, May 8th beginning at 11:30 a.m.  They will pay $5 off a single takeout order and $10 off a double/multiple orders until the $250.00 donation at each of the following local restaurants is met.

**May 5th at 4:00 p.m.**

* It was announced today that Wellman Dynamics has purchased the former Ferrara Candy Company property.  Plans include expanding existing operations and separating aluminum and magnesium casting operations to provide much needed capacity to support growth.  Work on the facility will take place over the next twelve months prior to the arrival of approximately $24 million in new equipment earmarked for the existing plant and the new facility.  Once completed the new facility will be one of the most modern sandcasting production facilities in the United States.  Plans for production in the facility are targeted for 2022.
* The Union County Courthouse is closed but that doesn't mean that work is not taking place.  The Union County Auditor has absentee voting set up in the basement and the Union County Treasurer's office is starting to handle driver's licenses by appointment only.  Please call 641-782-1710.
* The Wishing Well has announced that it's hours for the rest of the week will be 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  Please call 641-782-2253 with questions or to place an order.

**May 4th at 4:30 p.m.**

* The former Creston Super 8/Rodeway Inn became a Quality Inn on Friday, May 1st.  Congratulations.
* Denny LaMasters shared - "BuiltNetworks is still repairing and selling computers.  Please call 641-782-4765 first for instructions on bringing in your computer during the COVID-19 pandemic.  On a paper provide your full name, address and phone number plus login password if any and what is wrong with your computer or what you want repaired or upgraded. Please have a mask on if I invite you into the shop."
* Pizza Ranch has clarified that their buffet is open, but **NOT** self-serve.  The wait staff/team member will handle your order.
* The Creston High School Awards Ceremony will be streamed live on May 14th at 6:00 p.m. on KSIB's Website and the link will be shared on Twitter as well.  Graduation is being held virtually on May 17th at 2:00 for students and their families.  After the ceremony, it will be made available to the public on the school website and will be tweeted out on social media.
* The CCHS Prom has been tentatively rescheduled for Saturday, June 27th.  Details to come as they work with the various groups who volunteer to create a memorable evening for the students.
* Carroll Family Chiropractic returned to their normal business hours seeing patients on Monday, May 4th.  They ask if you have a cloth mask to wear it to your visit and to sit at least six feet away from any other patients in the waiting area and if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 to please stay home.
* The Creston Hibbett Sports stored closed on Friday, May 1st.

**May 1st at 4:15 p.m.**

* Spencer's Chophouse & Tavern will be open for dine in and continue offering Carry Out and Curb-Side Pick-up on May 1st.  Their hours are Tuesday to Thursday, 5 to 9 p.m. and Friday and Saturday, 4 to 10 p.m.  They recommend making a reservation for dining in.  641-782-1008.
* The Strand Theatre will again be offering their fantastic pop-corn and other goodies this weekend.  Remember to call your order in ahead of time.
* American Home Design Center shared - "Entry into the showroom will be limited for another week to allow for the safety of our staff and customers. Meaning that the showroom door will be locked in order for one person or couple at a time for social distancing. Please call ahead if possible for an appointment, 782-4193. Or, call and we can set out paint, sundries or samples on the front steps for pickup. Our hours will remain 8:00 am-4:30 pm. Your business and health are important to us!
* The 2020 KSIB Tractor Ride has been postponed.  They will be re-scheduling the Ride later this season.

**April 30th at 4:30 p.m.**

* Hazel Maries & The Wishing Well will be opening their store front businesses on Friday, May 1st. There is plenty of space to roam in the shops and they will be heavily sanitizing.  They will continue to offer curbside pickup, local delivery and shipping services.  They remind you to keep following them on Facebook for all the "pretties" they will continue to post.
* Adams Street Espresso will be open to the public on May 1st as well.
* Coen's Furniture will be open on May 1st with normal business hours.  Meg asks if at all possible that you call - 641-782-2121 and schedule an appointment as they are concerned about social distancing and wanting to make sure that they have the staff available to assist you.
* Create Creston will "not be open" but if you need something please call Brian at 641-247-1663.
* "Pizza Ranch will be opening up for Buffet on Monday May 4th. We will offer Buffet Sunday thru Saturday 11a-1:30pm and 5pm- 7:30pm. Our Ranch has had seating removed to allow for social distancing. We are not opening the arcade up per state regulation and guests will be seated by a manager or senior team lead. Our team will serve the guests, so no self service allowed again per state regulation. We are doing everything possible to keep our community safe and my team safe.  We will continue offering delivery and pick up along with contactless delivery and curbside pick-up.”
* The following is from a statement issued by Southern Prairie YMCA: For a complete statement please visit their website.
* "The Southern Prairie YMCA will be reopening to **Members Only, 18 years and older,** on **MAY 18, 2020 in a Phase 1 approach. Our HOURS will be on a limited basis to ensure proper cleaning and disinfecting of the building until Phase 2. Those operating hours will be from 7-6 Monday through Saturday.** Under Phase 1, there will be strict restrictions and protocols put into place to ensure the safety and health of our members and staff. We have been working with the YUSA, Y State Alliance, IDPH, and CDC to ensure that the SPYMCA is equipped and prepared to help control the spread of the coronavirus while our facility is open and keep our staff and members as safe as possible while in the facility. In response to the guidelines set forth by the State of Iowa, the IDPH, and the CDC, the SPYMCA will have a soft opening with only **4 areas available for usage".**
* Lori's Boutique has decided not to open on Friday, May 1st. Remember that their website is open 24/7 for online shopping and they will continue to offer curbside pickups, shipping and delivery services.

**April 29th at 3:15 p.m.**

* Per Alexi Groumoutis, Creston Farmers' Market Manager the - "Creston Farmers' Market will open Monday, June 1st.  However the farmers' market will look different this year.  For the safety of our patrons, Governor Reynolds has announced no craft vendors, no entertainment, no kids activities or wellness demos and no sitting and gathering will be allowed at the market this year.  The market will be open to support our local foods system and the farmers, growers and food artisans who have worked so hard to put locally sourced foods on our tables. Vendors must be positioned 6 feet apart and wear masks.  We will not have an annual meeting this year.  Please message Creston Farmers' Market with any questions you might have. Market goes from 4 to 6:30 p.m. every Monday starting June 1st and continuing until September 28th."
* After much thought and consideration for their customers and staff the following restaurants will **NOT** be open for dine-in eating beginning May 1st. They **WILL** continue to offer what they have been providing up to this point - i.e. carryout/ pick-up and or delivery.
  + **A & G Restaurant & Lounge**
  + **Casa de Oro**
  + **Elm's Club**
  + **Mario's Sports Bar & Grill**
* Java J's has decided to keep their coffee/fudge counter closed for another 3 weeks. They look forward to serving you all soon.
* Sabrena Utley with Utley Tax Advisory & Accounting Services shared that she is on an Appointment only basis as she has a child with a compromised immune system.  She asks everyone that meets with her to wear a mask and remember that they are only dropping off or picking up items.  Sabrena can be reached at 641-745-9581.

**April 28th at 3:00 p.m.**

* From Southern Prairie YMCA - "In light of Governor Reynold’s recent announcement that fitness gyms in 77 Iowa counties may reopen as of May 1, we are carefully considering all of the health and safety precautions and guidelines surrounding this pandemic in order to determine when Southern Prairie YMCA will reopen to members.  Please know that we are taking this decision very seriously and we will communicate further information with you regarding our operation as soon as possible.  We look forward to being able to open our facility to our members as soon as we can ensure that it is safe to do so."
* Beginning Monday, May 4th Java J's will re-open their coffee/fudge counter.  They will be serving drinks, ice cream,fudge, bagels, scones and scotcheroos from 7:30 a.m. to 3 p.m., Monday through Friday. They will not be serving lunch until "life gets back to more normal". They will see how things go before opening on Saturdays.
* Hartsock Insurance Services are happy to announce that as of May 1st they will be back to normal business and their lobby will be open to the public.  They ask that everyone practice social distancing and shared that they are still able to conduct business via phone, email or drop box.
* This Thursday Only - April 30th -  if you need popcorn for your May Day Baskets you are in luck.  The Strand Theatre is offering buy one large regular popcorn and get one free.  Call the Theatre between 3 to 6 p.m. to place your order, pay over the phone with a credit or debit card and arrange pickup.  When you arrive your order will be brought straight out to your car.   Previous combos are still available as well.
* Union County Conservation wanted you to know that camping is still not allowed in any of their camping areas, or use of the cabins or lodge.  You can still come and visit the various UC spots in the County and please remember to maintain social distancing. They have chosen to follow the dates established by the Iowa DNR during COVID-19.

**April 27th at 4:30 p.m.**

* Please see below a brief review of the Emergency Proclamation of Disaster Emergency issued by Governor Reynolds today - April 27, 2020.  As many of you are probably aware she has begun to open sections of the State under certain requirements beginning May 1st.   As Union County Emergency Manager, Jo Duckworth said when she sent out the information - "Please, continue to practice the 3 C’s.  Cover your cough, Clean and disinfect, and Contain – if you are not feeling well, stay home.    If there is an uptick of cases in Union County, we can expect that we will be shut down again, so please act responsibly."

The Governor has issued a new proclamation regarding COVID-19. 77 of Iowa’s 99 counties will be allowed to open specific businesses on May 1, 2020. Union County is among the 77 counties. The proclamation can be found at:

<https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-signs-new-proclamation-continuing-the-state-public-health-emergency-0>

The new proclamation allows opening of restaurants, fitness centers, Enclosed Malls, Libraries, Race Tracks, and other retail establishments – providing they do not exceed 50% of their capacity and can practice other public health measures to mitigate the risk of spread of Covid-19 in the County. There are other requirements, so take the time to read the proclamation.

In addition, spiritual and religious gatherings are allowed if they follow the guidelines for such gatherings. Weddings and funerals are not.

Farmers Markets – with restrictions

Auctions of livestock and farm products- with restrictions.

Non-essential or elective surgeries – with restrictions.

Emergency Dental Services –

Non-essential dental services after May 15th with restrictions.

The proclamation comes in 3 parts, so read it completely.

* Please remember to go to Census2020 and take the census online.  You can also do this by phone and mail. Help spread the word. Currently Creston has a 60.2% self response rate compared to the State of Iowa which is at 61.2%.  We can do better.

**April 24th at 4:15 p.m.**

* The DNR is extending closures of campgrounds and other park facilities through May 14, 2020 to help protect the health of visitors and staff during the COVID-19 health emergency. State parks and forests remain open for day-use opportunities, but visitors are reminded to strictly abide the social distancing rules and not gather in groups.
* If tomorrow is Saturday, which it is, it means that it is Scoop the Loop Night in Creston.  Listen to KOOL 102.1 while you are out. (6 to 9 p.m.) and don't forget to order your popcorn, Kettle corn or other favorites from the Strand. Please remember to call ahead.

**April 23rd at 4:15 p.m.**

Please find below the **2020 Paint Creston Application**.    If you know of someone who is thinking about painting their house please share this with them. Thank you to First National Bank for your continued support of this program. It is greatly appreciated.

* Good News - Chuck Teutsch with Rieman Music is happy to report that they have resumed normal hours, but with curbside delivery only, Monday through Friday - 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Customers may either call ahead or when they arrive, the staff at Rieman's will assist them.  Please call 641-782-5121 for more information.
* Just a reminder that Office Machines is still here to serve you.  Their lobby is closed but can be opened for appointments.  They are available to take your phone orders or internet orders at officemachinesco.com. or 641-782-8464. Free Delivery! Please support all our local businesses.
* ZFS Creston shares that their staff at all locations are doing their part to keep us moving forward.  They are very thankful for all these folks who are coming in to work everyday to make sure ZFS is able to continue operating and meeting the needs of their customers.
* The Strand Theatre will again be selling their great popcorn this weekend - also during Scoop the Loop - plus this week they are adding Kettle Corn to the menu - how tasty. Also available will be the additional items they sold last week.

**April 22nd at 4:00 p.m.**

* Happy Administrative Professional Day!!
* Have you heard about TestIowa? TestIowa is a new initiative in partnership with the State of Iowa and private corporations. The goal is to dramatically increase the rate of COVID-19 testing so Iowans can have better access to testing and help stem the spread of COVID-19 to get us back to normal as quickly as possible. Please visit [www.testiowa.com](http://www.testiowa.com) for more information and see how you can be part of it.
* Remember to check the Restaurant Posting on the Chamber Website as it is updated as things change.

**April 21st at 4:15 p.m.**

* I want to thank First National Bank for purchasing the Girl Scout Cookies that I mentioned in yesterdays update.  How generous.
* Congratulations to First National Bank in Creston as they have completed their merger of Century Bank in Shenandoah, Iowa, and with all the necessary regulatory approvals met, the bank will now be known as First National Bank and will continue to serve Shenandoah and the surrounding communities.
* I also learned today, that there are two Girl Scout Troops in Creston and the second troop also has cookies still available.  Please see part of the email I received this morning:

"Traci Martwick and Audrey Wright have gathered all of the cookies from their troop. With that return they still have 408 boxes left of cookies which totals $1,632. They would love to finish donating these cookies to the local food bank , hospitals, fire departments, EMS's, doctor's offices, HyVee, Fareway, and Walmart employees as they are all  frontline workers, not to mention all the other small businesses around town that are trying to keep their doors open. They are still looking for donations to finish sells out by the 26th of April.  No donations is too small. Tracy and Audrey will deliver them anywhere that they request them to be delivered. We have  Venmo, PayPal, clover go, check, debit and we can accept cash. Please reach out to us at 641-344-8360  - Audrey Wright cell phone number and 641-340 3897 is Traci Martwick's phone number."  Two Girl Scout Leaders in Creston

* The 2020 Census is well underway. The massive undertaking of counting everyone living in the United States and five U.S. territories requires everyone’s participation. Over 75 million households have responded already - **only a little over 52% have in Creston.**  If your household has not responded, now is the time. Even if you received a paper questionnaire in the mail, you can still respond online at [2020census.gov](https://lnks.gd/l/eyJhbGciOiJIUzI1NiJ9.eyJidWxsZXRpbl9saW5rX2lkIjoxMDIsInVyaSI6ImJwMjpjbGljayIsImJ1bGxldGluX2lkIjoiMjAyMDA0MjAuMjA0MDI3NzEiLCJ1cmwiOiJodHRwczovLzIwMjBjZW5zdXMuZ292L2VuLmh0bWw_dXRtX2NhbXBhaWduPTIwMjAwNDIwY2hjMjBzMWNjYWxscnMmdXRtX21lZGl1bT1lbWFpbCZ1dG1fc291cmNlPWdvdmRlbGl2ZXJ5In0.I6ynJkWFhYvoUnq9p6R8c6Vh4aHJx-2bnF2ZvG7iXp8/br/77635457069-l). Don't be left out.  Creston needs you.

**April 20th at 4 p.m.**

Please see an email I received concerning Girl Scout Cookies:

* "Kaya is wrapping up the girl scout cookie season.  As you can imagine it has been an interesting time not being able to continue with booths or anything like that.  Kaya has reached the goals she wanted to reach, but still has cookies on hand.

She can return these cookies with no risk to her, however we have until April 26th to sell what we have on hand, if we still want. Kaya has all varieties available still, although some are limited.  A total of 161 boxes remain ($645)

We would like to collect donations for the remaining cookies.  We have already donated about 50 packages to nursing homes to help cheer up residents.  We would like to be able to donate the remaining cookies to our area "essential" Nursing homes, Hospitals, Fire Departments, Police Stations.    Again, we have until April 26th to get the money together if we are going to get these donated so we wanted to put it out there for anyone who is interested in helping.

We are accepting paypal donations for this to [Tyler61f@outlook.com](mailto:Tyler61f@outlook.com), or I can take Credit Card payments by phone 641-344-6083.  Thanks so much!"

* The Creston City Council will hold their next meeting on Tuesday, April 21st beginning at 6 p.m. If you would like to attend - using Zoom -  please see below.
* <https://www.crestoniowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/1446/APRIL-21-2020> and the link to the Zoom meeting:

Topic: Creston City Council Meeting

Time: Apr 21, 2020 06:00 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86183653105?pwd=OVVvVG5ha3d6S3VEelAzbE10aENHdz09>

Meeting ID: 861 8365 3105

Password: 036716

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,86183653105#,,#,036716# US (Chicago)

Dial by your location

        +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

        +1 253 215 8782 US

        +1 301 715 8592 US

Meeting ID: 861 8365 3105

Password: 036716

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcmLFAZpK>

* Consider making a donation to "Food for Friends".  Money raised will go to the Creston Area Food Pantry to help residents within our area who have been impacted by COVID-19  Checks can be made out to the Christmas Basket Fund and be dropped off at the Creston News Advertiser in the drop box next to the front door.  Contributions can also be mailed to the Creston News Advertiser, PO Box 126, Creston  Iowa  50801.  The Fund will continue to take contributions through the end of May.

**April 17th at 3:30 p.m.**

* The lights on the various sports fields up at Creston High School will be turned on tonight from 8 to 8:20 p.m. as a way of remembering the number of school days missed so far.
* Remember Saturday, April 18ht will be another Cruise Creston 2020 starting at 6 p.m. In addition, ISSB has bought one free popcorn per family for the first $500.00 ordered from the Strand Theatre. Call them at 641-782-7224 or 641-715-7550 to pre-order your popcorn for the night.  Arrange a pick up time and they will bring the popcorn to your car. The fun begins at 6 p.m. Enjoy cruising, popcorn and waving at neighbors and friends from a safe distance.
* The Creston Community Blood Drive will take place on Monday, April 20 from noon to 6 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church.  Please contact Betty Wallace at 641-782-2677 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and Enter Creston to schedule an appointment.  COVID-19 protocols will be in place for your safety.

**April 16th at 3:30 p.m.**

* The Iowa Secretary of State's office will be mailing an absentee ballot request form to every registered voter in Iowa for the June 2nd primary.  They are encouraging Iowans to vote by mail to reduce the spread of COVID-19.
* Homestead Assisted Living & Memory Care is in need of masks for their residents.  If you can help please visit their Facebook Page at Homestead of Creston for details.
* The St. Malachy Teacher Parade scheduled for today, April 16th has been postponed to Monday, April 20th from 4 to 5 p.m. due to weather.
* Members of Southern Iowa Resources for Families want to give back to our community by producing face masks to be donated to local medical professionals.  We are requesting donations of materials from the community.  In order to make them compliant with hospital requirements, we need: Tea Cloth or 100% cotton fabric, Pellon interfacing fabric for filter, all-purpose thread, elastic, garden wire or plastic covered wire.  Any donations are greatly appreciated! Please call 641-782-4170.
* Please send any monetary donations for the Creston Area Food Pantry to PO Box 669, Creston  Iowa  50801 - not their street address please.
* The WIC Office here in Creston is open and taking new clients with children that are 5 and under and also women that are pregnant and getting them approved for WIC Benefits.  It is all done over the phone.

**April 15th at 4:30 p.m.**

* The Elms Club will begin doing take-out/pick-up orders on Friday April 17th from 5 to 8 p.m. They will then continue offering orders from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 5 to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday after the 17th.
* Thank you to ISSB Bank for purchasing $500.00 of popcorn from the Strand Theatre this Saturday, April 18th.  Eat popcorn while you Scoop the Loop starting at 2 p.m.  Call the Strand Theatre at 641-782-7224 or 641-715-7550 to pre-order your popcorn for the night.  Arrange a pick up time and they will bring the popcorn to your car.  ISSB has bought one free popcorn per family for the first $500.00 ordered.  Enjoy cruising, popcorn and waving at neighbors and friends from a safe distance.
* Vicker Programming Services is business as usual.  Roger can set up networks and new computers as well as helping with computer issues.  Give him a call at 641-202-1249.
* Shaw Media, parent company of the Creston News Advertiser,  has announced the launch of a community grant program to help local businesses continue advertising during the challenging times created by the COVID-19 crisis.  Nearly 30 Shaw Media publications are participating in this program, jointly allocating up to $1,000,000 in matching advertising credits to assist local businesses.  As a family owned business, Shaw Media is committed to supporting local partners and helping them reach customers.

To apply for this grant program or find more information, please visit [www.shawmedia.com/community-grant](http://www.shawmedia.com/community-grant) and complete the online application. This program is open to locally owned and operated businesses impacted by the coronavirus.  Grant credits are available for a minimum of $200 and a maximum of $10,000 and can be used towards print or digital advertising in their local Shaw Media news products.  Grant credits will be awarded in April, May and June and must be used within the month.

Completed applications will be reviewed and a Shaw representative will reach out to confirm approval. Questions regarding this program can be directed to your local Shaw Media publication.

* If you have not done so, please take a few minutes and complete your census questionnaire.

**April 14th at 5 p.m.**

* St. Malachy School will be offering a Drive Thru Teacher Parade on Thursday, April 16th from 3 to 6 p.m. at the front of the school.  Families are invited to drive by the school from Elm Street to Clark Street going west to wave to their teachers. Teachers will line up along Clark Street maintaining social distancing and wave at their students as they drive by.  You are to stay in you car and asked not to stop but smile, wave and show signs and decorations if you wish.  Teachers will not approach cars.
* Nationwide, to help relieve some of the burden to their customers will offer a one-time premium refund of $50 per policy for personal auto policies.

**April 13th at 4:00 p.m.**

Over the weekend we received an email from Nancy and Marion James that we wanted to share with you.  We really think they speak for so many of us when they said, **"The workers in our community, recently named "essential workers" in businesses and all the varied "healthcare workers" are being appreciated more than ever.  We want to give them a bit shout out! And thank them sincerely".   You are appreciated more than you can ever imagine.**

Please remember that though a businesses door may be locked/closed, we are sure if you called, emailed, texted or messaged one of them, most would get back to you.  It is only by working together that we can keep Creston strong during and then after this crisis. Please reach out to them.

* The Paint Creston Program is being planned for 2020 based upon our current situation with the COVID-19 virus. If we are able to proceed with the program this year five owner occupied homes in Creston will be selected.  Applications can be found on the Creston Chamber Home Page and are due back to the Chamber by May 8th. We can also send you an application if needed.  A big thank you also to First National Bank in Creston for their continued financial support of this project.
* Crossroads Behavioral Health Services is offering you the opportunity to join a new & specialized virtual group platform on Mental Health: Coping Through COVID-19 - conducted by an experienced - Mental Health Professional.  Please contact Crossroads at 641-782-8457 to reserve your space today.
* WIC services are still being provided. Appointments are being held via phone. We are taking new clients as well as anyone that has a child under the age of 5 and new expecting mothers are encouraged to apply. Please call us at 641 202-7114 with any questions.

**April 10th at 2:45 p.m.**

As you probably know by now there has been a confirmed case of COVID-19 in Union County.  Please see below an announcement from Greater Regional Health on April 10th concerning this confirmed case in Union County.

The first confirmed case of COVID-19 is an individual that is in the age range of 61 to 80 years old. The individual is self-isolating at home with their spouse.

Robin Sevier, Union County Public Health Nurse says, “Even though, this is our first confirmed case, we know it is circulating in our community so continue to follow social distancing, good hand hygiene, and wearing masks going to the grocery stores.”  
  
Greater Regional does have the capability of testing patients. Those who meet the criteria will be tested. Remember the decisions about testing are at the discretion of state and local health departments and/or individual providers. The test results will be received in 5-7 days.   
  
At Greater Regional Health there has been 71 total tests done, 64 negative tests and 7 tests are still pending.

Please call ahead to the Help Desk at (641) 782-1194 to let Greater Regional know if you will be coming in for care.

Greater Regional Health continues to work in conjunction with Union County’s Public Health Nurse to follow all of CDC and IDPH guidelines. As a critical access hospital with a partnership with UnityPoint Health, Greater Regional can care for patients that are positive for COVID-19.  For more information on general COVID-19 questions and specific Union County testing information please visit their website at [www.greaterregional.org](http://www.greaterregional.org).

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* Ben Adamson, State Farm Insurance shared the following with the Chamber - Today State Farm just announced we will be returning up to $2 BILLION to State Farm Mutual policyholders in the form of a dividend.  This is roughly 25% of the auto premium paid from March 20th to May 31st.  The amount will vary state by state.  This will be issued as a credit on your billing beginning in June.  As a policyholder you will not need to request anything.   If you have any questions about your accounts with me please call anytime. Ben's number is 641-782-8549.
* ASI Audiology & Hearing Instruments is offering free Tele-Health.  The doctors are able to offer free calls to discuss any concerns you are having with your hearing health.  Call 800-458-4413.
* The Creston Area Food Pantry has been asked how or what can be donated to them.  "Monetary donations are very helpful at this time of great need for the children and families in our community. They are able to purchase food from the food bank in Des Moines for a lot less than what it would cost at the store. With that said they will always take personal products and canned goods.  At this time of social distancing mailing a check to 417 Wyoming Avenue, Creston, Iowa 50801 may be the easiest and safest way to make a donation.  All donations are very much appreciated".
* Southern Iowa Trolley has announced that due to the confirmed case of COVID-19 in Union County: \*Effective, today, Friday April 10th, Until Further Notice, S.I.T. will be operating as follows: \*
* \*Creston: \*  
  \*Monday - Wednesday - Friday 8am-2pm (5am Dialysis pick up only)\*  
  \*Tuesday & Thursday: 9am - 3pm \*  
  \*Office staff in Creston will be available, Mon-Fri, 8am - 4pm \*

\*Mt. Ayr, Greenfield, Corning, and Leon:\*  
\*Monday - Friday: 9am - 3pm\*

\*Osceola: \*  
\*Monday - Friday: 7am - 4pm (staggered drivers due to scheduled pickups) \*

\*We are screening callers and requesting they take the recommended precautions of wearing a mask or some type of covering to help keep our drivers safe. We will continue transporting one (1) rider at a time and driver's will continue to spray and wipe all high touch areas when the rider is dropped off. Our drivers will also be wearing masks and taking recommended precautions. \*

\*We have received handmade masks and sanitizer from Emergency Management. Thank you for your support! Stay home, stay safe!

* Homestead of Creston is happy to offer video chat capabilities to our residents and their families and friends via FaceTime and Zoom.**Call them at 641-782-3131 to schedule a time to use this service.**
* **Mario's Sports Bar & Grill is please to announce that online ordering is now available.** Just press "Shop now" at the top of their Facebook page and it will walk you through the process.  They will no longer be taking orders through Facebook messenger.   Mario's team appreciates all of the support they have received during this time.
* Creston's Little Caesars will be offering "Pie It Forward" beginning on Apirl 13th.  This makes it possible for the public to donate a pizza to our law enforcement and fire departments via their app at checkout. Someone from those departments will pick up the pizza.

**April 9th at 5:00 p.m.**

* If you can sew and would like to help, please visit Great Regional Health's website for patterns for scrub hats, masks and gowns. [www.greaterregional.org](http://www.greaterregional.org)
* Ben Adamson, State Farm Insurance will be offering extended payment options if the COVID-19 outbreak has hurt your financially.  Please call 641-782-8549
* Athletico is offering treatment options during the COVID-19 pandemic.  Appointments are available for in-clinic or via telehealth.  Please call 641-316-2089
* All Union County Conservation buildings will be closed to public access until further notice.  This includes the Union County Conservation Board Office, the Three Mile Lake Lodge, all 9 cabins, all shelters, the shower house, the fish cleaning station and all pit latrines at Three Mile Lake and all other UCCB area.  No new cabin or shelter reservations will be able to be made for any days from March 30, 2020 through May 1, 2020.  Parks will remain open to day use activities only.  No recreational camping is allowed at any UCCB Area until further notice.  Non-recreational camping will be allowed for essential workers only.  Essential workers who are interested in using the campground will need to contact the Union County Conservation Board at 641-347-5100 and fill out a formal request application.  We will continue to monitor and adjust operations as needed based on guidance from the Iowa Department of Public Health and the Governors Office.  Thank you for your understanding.

**April 8th at 5:00 p.m.**

I want to begin today's update with a couple of corrections.

* The service schedule for several of the churches in Creston is located on the Union County Emergency Management Facebook page and not their website.
* The email address to reach out to The Learning Center of SW Iowa for remote tutoring was incorrect.  The correct address is [tlctossian@gmail.com](mailto:tlctossian@gmail.com).
* **GOOD NEWS:** You may be wondering why there is scaffolding in Uptown Creston the last couple of days.  The Uptown Facade Program which has been in the works for almost two years is beginning.  The buildings that will be part of the project have drawings in their windows of what the building will look like when it is completed.
* **FUN NEWS**: The folks that have been planning the last couple of Scoop the Loop Saturday evenings have decide to move this weeks "scoop" to Friday, April 10th due to the forecasted weather on Saturday.  The fun will start at 6 p.m. and the Creston Area Food Pantry will be set-up in front of American Home Design Center to accept food donations for the Pantry - practicing social distancing.
* The American Red Cross has scheduled a Blood Drive in Creston at Trinity Lutheran Church on Monday, April 20th from Noon to 6 p.m.  They will be practicing all of the guidelines established for COVID-19.  If you wish to make an appointment please contact Betty Wallace at 641-782-2677 or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter Creston to schedule an appointment.  The need for blood is great during this time.
* Finally if you have completed your Census form you are one of the 50% plus here in Union County that has done so - **thank you**.  If you haven't completed the information it doesn't take very long at all and is important on so many levels for all of us.  **Please** -let's try to raise that number to at least 95%. We can do it.

**April 7th at 4:00 p.m.**

* Small Business Owners (under 500 employees) hopefully you have submitted an application to be part of the Paycheck Protection Program.  If you have questions please call one of the financial institutions in Creston. The paperwork is minimal and easy to fill out.
* Union County Emergency Management has a list of several of the Churches in the Area and their schedule of worship.  Please visit their website at  [www.ucema.org](http://www.ucema.org).
* Katie Turner just shared that -American Family Insurance has just announced that every auto policy will receive a check for $50 to aid in the Covid19 pandemic.
* The Creston Area Food Pantry will be closed on April 12th but will be open from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. on April 11th.
* MATURA Action Corporation:  Union County Outreach is operating Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays, 9-Noon/1pm – 4:30 pm; call (641) 782-8431 to apply for heating assistance or to pick up a food box.  Donations are still needed, call ahead to drop off.

WIC is operating Monday-Thursdays.  Call office (641) 202-7114, or WIC cell (641) 344-6013, (641) 344-6018.

* Green Valley Lake's public campground, cabins and playgrounds are closed through April 30th.  The rest of the park remains open.

**April 6th at 4:00 p.m.**

Tomorrow, April 7th, the Creston City Council Meeting will be held on Zoom at 6 p.m..  If you would like to listen and or watch as well please visit their Facebook Page at City of Creston, IA for complete details.

* Hartsock Insurance Services is open for normal business operation but their lobby is now closed to the public until further notice.  If you feel there are business matters that need to be handled in person please call them at 641-782-8516.   They have the ability to do payments by phone with check or debit/credit card, billing, policy changes, claims, quotes and even start new policies.
* The Turner Insurance Agency is here for you and all  your insurance needs.  They are simply open in a different way. Test, email or phone 24-7.  Office Phones: 641-782-7471 or 641-342-1021.  Office Cell text ONLY - 641-414-6948.  The office email is [turneragency@amfam.com](mailto:turneragency@amfam.com).  They can take all payments via phone,  Debit/credit cards and checking/savings.  Checks or money orders can also be mailed to PO Box 67, Creston, IA  50801.
* From Pokorny BP - BP just announced on Saturday that they are offering a 50 cent/gallon discount on a fill up for Doctors, Nurses, First Responders and Hospital Workers.  You simply need to go to bp.com/local heroes and sign up. You may have to upload an ID card or certification proving that you fall into one of the categories.  Then the website will provide you a discount code to enter at the pump.  Before you start your transaction, simply press the cancel button, enter the code and press enter.  The pump price should automatically adjust.  Thanks for all you do to serve our communities, from us at Pokorny BP & Automotive Service.
* The Learning Center of Southwest Iowa is offering remote tutoring.  Email [tictossian@gmail.com](mailto:tictossian@gmail.com) for details.
* Southwestern Community College announced today, April 6th, that the remainder of the Spring 2020 Semester will continue online.  A virtual commencement ceremony is being planned to honor graduates.

Stay safe and healthy.

**April 3rd at 5:15 P.M.**

I thought I would begin today's updates with some helpful reminders from Jo Duckworth, Union County Emergency Manager. (641-782-1622)

* **People need to practice social distancing, regardless. That is 6 feet away from others.**
* Wash your hands frequently.  Use hand sanitizer if  you are unable to wash your hands.
* Clean and disinfect “high touch surfaces” like counters, sinks, light switches, doorknobs, handles, etc.) The surfaces should be cleaned if dirty with a cleaning solution, allowed to air-dry and then wipe down with a sanitizer and allow to air-dry again.
* Limit trips as to the grocery stores and other businesses to once a week.  **When going out, if possible, take as few family members as you can.**
* **Masks: If you feel vulnerable there are many things that can be used as a mask. It just needs to be two layers of fabric – preferably cotton, to cover your mouth and nose. Anything, such as a bandanna, scarf, or t-shirt will work. It needs to be folded so the folds face up and securely tied.**
* **Please contact Jo if you have fabric to donate for masks. They are needed in Union County for our healthcare centers and other first responders.**

**Updates:**

* **Correction: Precision Optical is still open for business, but closed to the walk-in public. Please call for assistance - 641-782-6685 ext 128 or 135.**
* Southern Prairie YMCA is now closed until April 30th.  Please follow them on Facebook for exercise ideas and other helpful information.
* Iowa Vocational Rehabilitation Services wants to remind everyone that they remain open and still active in working with job candidates who want to work.  Though they cannot meet personally with individuals right now, they can visit with them by phone, email, Zoom, Google Hangouts, etc., wherever is convenient.  641-782-8538.
* Todd Crill Auctions has announced that all auctions are postponed until further notice due to COVID-19.
* Big Boyz Toyz will continue to be open for business during regular business hours.  They ask that you call or text to contact them - 641-782-6104.
* Office Machines is closed to walk in business but they are still available for all orders called in or order at officemachinesco.com plus free delivery. 641-782-8464.
* Kilgore's Enterprises has decided for everyone's well being to close to the public for a couple of weeks.  This will start on April 6th.  Linda can still be reached if you need parts or want information on a camper or a building.  Please call 641-202-2063.
* Alliant Energy has partnered with ISU Students to make and distribute protective equipment for medical professionals in Iowa.
* Please check out Tyler Insurance Services Facebook Page for some great coloring pages along with helpful ideas to get your home ready for Spring.
* American Home Design Center starting immediately will be available by phone - 641-782-4193 - email ([ronda.ahdc@gmail.com](mailto:ronda.ahdc@gmail.com)) or their Facebook Page.
* Walmart of Creston will hold a Job Fair Sunday, April 5th from 1 to 3 p.m. located at Site to Store.
* Create Creston is still here for you.  Please call if you need art supplies or t-shirts.  641-247-1663.
* If you missed last Saturday's Scoop the Loop it will be back this Saturday April 4th from 6 to ?????.  Remember local restaurants will be open for carryout and some Uptown Businesses will be putting stuffed animal or picture of animal in their window for a type of scavenger hunt for the younger children.

**April 2nd at 4:45 P.M.**

* Governor Reynolds at her press conference today extended her emergency proclamation through April 30th including the schools and added more elective surgeries.
* The Iowa Secretary of State announced that his office plans to mail an absentee ballot request form to every active registered voter in the state ahead of the June 2 primary.
* On Friday, Saturday and Sunday, the Strand Theatre will be offering Curbside Popcorn To Go from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. Please call the theatre (641-782-7224) between those hours to place your order, pay over the phone with a credit or debit card and arrange pickup.  When you arrive your popcorn will be brought straight out to your car.  Large popcorn only, featuring the Shake n'Share lids for $6.25.
* I am sad to report that the Creston Volunteer Fireman's Easter Egg Hunt on April 11th at McKinley Park has been cancelled because of the COVID-19 virus.
* Remember Adam's Street Espresso is open for carry out from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m.
* Carroll Family Chiropractic will be closed through April 30, 2020.  They will continue to take appointments on an emergency basis.  Please call and leave a message at 641-782-3199.
* Hello, this is Brian from Create Creston. We want to make a one-color fundraising t-shirt for your business that is closed because of this crisis. We will offer them for sale on our website, and then when people buy them, we will give you $5 for each one. I will deliver the ones in Creston, and shipping will be available for elsewhere. I wish it could be more. Hopefully it will keep your business in people's minds during this down time. If you want to participate, email me an image. We are all apart, but we are in this together.

Stay safe,

Brian

641-247-1663

* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Precision Optical has made the decision to close their office until April 12th.  They will be available to answer any queries from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. at 465-3937 or 764-3485.

**April 1st at 5:00 P.M.**

Please see below information that has been shared with us.

* Due to COVID-19 all park shelters, playground equipment and skate park are officially closed in McKinley Park, McKinley Campground, Taylor Park and Rainbow Park in Creston.
* Pine Valley Golf & Bowl will be postponing all bowling leagues till further notice due to the COVID-19 virus.
* Supreme Cleaners is open during this time using their drive through as pick-up and drop off.  They ask if you have items with them please stop by and pick them up.

**March 31st at 5:20 P.M.**

Please see information that has been shared with us that you might find helpful.

* We have been asked to remind you that social distancing is so important during this time even in a business setting.  Please remember the six foot rule is not only as an employee or employer, but as a customer as well. Realizing that most counters are not six feet wide, please use good judgement.
* Mario's Sports Bar & Grill wants you to know that you can order on Facebook from 5 to 7 p.m.  They have Daily Specials.
* James Law Office is available only by appointment or telephone conference.  Please call 641-782-6000 for assistance.
* Hometown Insurance & Realty's lobby is closed.  Please call 641-782-4626 for business needs.
* Please remember that many of our local banks are able to assist their business customers with many of the programs that have recently been created to help businesses during this time. You don't need to go it alone. Please give them a call.
* Please visit the KSIB Radio Facebook page and catch their YouTube interview with Creston Community Schools Superintendent Stender.
* Gibson Memorial Librarian David Hargrove is offering Story Time on Monday, Wednesday and Friday's at 10:30 a.m. for the children.  Please go to their Facebook Page - Creston.Lib.IA.US.  Also on Thursdays at 8 p.m. David will be doing readings from Creston's Past - Night Histories - on their Facebook Page.
* On Wednesday, April 1st, the Corning Opera House Cultural Center will be offering "Shake your Sillies" at 1 p.m.  This is great for young children as they sing and move to familiar nursery rhymes and stories.  Their Facebook Page is Corning Opera House.

**March 30th at 7:15 p.m.**

The following is information we have received that we wanted to pass along.

* A & G Restaurant hours are now 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 4 to 8 p.m.
* Coen's Furniture is available by phone Monday through Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  -  641-782-2121 or on Facebook and Instagram or Email: coenfurniture@gmail.  They will be unavailable on Saturdays, except for emergencies (call 712-579-0464). We appreciate your support and patience with us, as we have significantly less staff in the store at this time.  We can still provide delivery and pick up service, much like the restaurants and grocery stores. We’ll be limiting delivery to a couple days a week during this time. If possible, we prefer drop off delivery over in-home delivery (to continue practicing social distancing).
* Southwestern Community College will be extending the end date for online delivery of face-to-face classes for spring semester through Friday, April 10. Due to this extension in online course delivery, the student housing move-in date will be moved to the weekend of April 11-12. Face-to-face adult and continuing education programming is currently suspended, but the department does offer online learning and training opportunities. College offices remain closed to the general public and walk-in traffic; however, college offices, as well as the Osceola and Red Oak Centers, continue to be staffed, largely with employees operating from remote locations. Registration for summer term is currently open and fall 2020 semester registration opens next week.
* Please visit Green Valley State Parks Facebook Page for updated information on what is happening in the Park during this time.
* All Rieman Music locations will be closed until April 7th.  They will be answering the phones at the Urbandale Store 515-278-4685 and shipping out orders.  Monday through Friday, Noon to 6 p.m. and Saturday, Noon to 5 p.m.  They are closed on Sunday.
* Summer 2020 Update.  Southwest Iowa Driver's Education is going to move forward with their Summer 2020 scheduling.  They will offer three classes this summer if they are able to. Everything on their website at [www.southwestiowade.com](http://www.southwestiowade.com) has been updated.
* Nielsen Law, P.C. has temporarily closed until further notice.  Nielsen Law, P.C. will be available by appointment or phone conference only.  To set up an appointment or for any questions please call 641-782-7007.
* As of March 30th all calls to Crossroads Behavioral Health Services will be directed to Voicemail between 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

Please stay safe

**March 27th at 5:45 p.m.**

The following is information that we have received today that I wanted to pass along to you.

* A & G Restaurant and Lounge has updated their hours.  They are now open 11 a.m. to 8 p.m.
* In accordance with social distancing guidelines, U.S. Cellular stores will have a 10-person occupancy limit.  If the store is at capacity, you will be placed on their wait list and notified via call or text that they are ready to serve you.  You can also schedule an appointment for a specific date and time.  The hours of operation are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and closed Sunday.
* Boyd Appliance Center will remain open as an essential business at this time.  they will continue service in homes of individuals not reporting an illness.  However, hours may vary based on customer flow and service needs.  Please call the store at 641-782-2163 or if they are not there, please call 641-202-4726.
* Cook Video & Appliance will remain open as an essential business at this time.  Please call them at 641-782-5112.
* More decorate your own kits from Upper Crust Culinary Creations - cupcakes or cookies.  One dozen plus buttercream & sprinkles for $12.  Fresh baked bread and pies on the schedule next week.  Please visit Upper Crust Culinary Creations Facebook Page for information and details.
* Creston Medicap offers free delivery to homes and offices.  Download their app for information.
* Remember to visit Southern Prairie YMCA 's Facebook Page for workouts and other clever ideas.
* Check out Radiant Wellness Solutions' virtual Spring Yoga Session.  Visit their Facebook Page for details.  First session to take place on Monday, March 30th from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Please stay in touch.  We are here to support you.  Just let us know.

**March 26th at 4:30 p.m.**

* At her press conference today, Governor Reynolds extended her Health Declaration effective 10 p.m. Thursday, March 26th to all existing closures and now including book stores, clothing stores, shoe stores, jewelry stores, luggage stores, perfume and beauty supply stores, florists, furniture stores, home furnishing stores and other retail businesses effective until April 7th.  She recommended that schools remain closed until April 13th.
* As of Wednesday, March 25th, Greater Regional Health has updated their Visitor Policy. Please visit their Website at [www.greaterregional.org](http://www.greaterregional.org) or their Facebook Page at Greater Regional Health for a complete listing of the new policy.
* Per the Department of Labor, the attached poster “will fulfill notice requirements for employers obligated to inform employees about their rights under the new law.” This is a result of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act.
* As a reminder if you are having trouble completing the paperwork on any of the various programs that have been created because of the COVID-19 Pandemic please reach out to Ethan Pitt at our local SBDC Office - [pitt@swcciowa.edu](mailto:pitt@swcciowa.edu) - 641-782-1483 or Tim Ostroski - [ostroski@sicog.com](mailto:ostroski@sicog.com) - 641-782-8491.

**March 25th at 4:45 p.m.**

I want to begin this log by thanking those who reached out to me with ideas or activities for people of all ages. Several of the suggestions were from previous postings that they had taken advantage of, but I will be more than happy to share them again. Please see the list below.

* Upper Crust Culinary Creations is offering a DYO cupcake and/or cookie kits for people and families.  Please contact Cynthia Wolf through her Facebook Page – Upper Crust Culinary Creations.
* Radiant Wellness Solutions is offering virtual classes.  Please contact her for details through her Facebook Page.
* The Southern Prairie YMCA has exercise ideas on their Facebook page - check them out.
* The Learning Center of SW Iowa is looking into the option of offering remote tutoring sessions to help your child maintain their current skills. These sessions would provide students with a packet of grade level materials and together with a tutor, via Zoom (web-based sharing program), would work thru the provided lessons, and finish the session with reading a book together. Open to all students....  Laptop and access to internet would be required.

Please email [tlctossian@gmail.com](mailto:tlctossian@gmail.com) with interest or to request more information. Thank you!

* The Gibson Memorial Library is offering a Library To Go with curbside Pick-up.  Email or call the Library at 641-782-2277.
* The following is a Facebook Post from the Creston Community Elementary School Grades 1 – 5 from Monday, March 23rd.

“There is no academic emergency this week, so don’t be so quick to set-up a home school. Our country is in a crisis, and we are all stressed and tired. Stressed adults can not teach stressed children. It is a neuro-biological impossibility. Try focusing on connections and feeling of safety”.

* Our newest Casey’s store on Hwy 34/Taylor Street is open 24 hours a day.
* As of March 23rd, the Creston, Iowa and Boise, Idaho Vanmark facilities are operating with no interruptions to our customer service or manufacturing capabilities.
* The link below will take you to information from the Iowa Economic Development Authority on COVID-19 targeted small business sole operator fund that is available. <https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/programDetails?pid=137&ppid=26>
* **Labor Department releases fact sheets for Families First Coronavirus Response Act:**The U.S. Department of Labor’s Wage and Hour Division on Tuesday announced its first round of published guidance to provide information to employees and employers about how each will be able to take advantage of the protections and relief offered by the Families First Coronavirus Response Act (FFCRA) when it takes effect on April 1. The FFCRA will provide businesses with fewer than 500 employees funds to provide employees with paid leave, either for the employee’s own health needs or to care for family members. The guidance – provided in a [Fact Sheet for Employees,](https://businessrecord.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=2f273bc46fc3742e6181504cb245f1d5&i=3715A3788A3A275697) a [Fact Sheet for Employers](https://businessrecord.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=2f273bc46fc3742e6181504cb245f1d5&i=3715A3788A3A275698) and a [Questions and Answers](https://businessrecord.acemlna.com/lt.php?s=2f273bc46fc3742e6181504cb245f1d5&i=3715A3788A3A275699) document – addresses critical questions, such as how an employer must count the number of their employees to determine coverage; how small businesses can obtain an exemption; how to count hours for part-time employees; and how to calculate the wages employees are entitled to under this law. The department said updates will be provided on a rolling basis.

**March 25th at 11:30 a.m.**

Today we will start with a few ideas that have been shared with the Chamber, especially those who have children at home or others who are wondering how to reach out. If you have an idea that you would like to share please let me know and I will be more than happy to forward it. We will get through this together.

* If you are wanting to reach out to our senior facilities and are concerned about going out and social distancing, maybe Facebook would work. You could write the residents a note or draw them a picture and post it on Facebook – three of the four have Facebook pages and I am sure they would enjoy sharing with their residents. The following are Facebook pages for you to post to. Creston Have Care Center does not. Their mailing address is PO Box 367, Creston, IA 50801.

Crest Ridge Estates

Homestead of Creston

Creston Specialty Care

* Java J’s has posted that they have received a new order of puzzles that might work for your family.
* A Message from the Mayor:

“Currently we are deferring to health experts in the state capital and following the recommendations of the Governor. The City of Creston encourages all resident to follow social distancing recommendations and to only leave the house when absolutely necessary for groceries or essential health services.

Use of all playground equipment in any of Creston’s City Parks is not recommended at this time. I would however, encourage you to continue using the trails and green spaces per the social distancing guideline.

We appreciate your cooperation.”

* The State of Iowa has created a new website for all things Iowa that might help you navigate all the information that is out there concerning COVID-19. The link is <https://coronavirus.iowa.gov>.
* Akin building Center has new store hours until further notice. They are Monday through Friday 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. and closed Sunday.
* Casey’s General Stores on Townline and Sumner will be open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. until further notice.

**March 24th at Noon**

Please see below a copy of an email the Chamber received from Ethan Pitt, the Regional Director for our local SBDC Office here in Creston.  He has put together, in a concise format, the information that I had sent in earlier logs for assistance in regards to COVID-19 for small businesses. Please if you have any questions or need help in applying please reach out to Ethan.

Hello All,

There are three particular resources that I would like to update you on in regards to COVID-19 assistance for small businesses:

**Iowa Small Business Relief Fund (grant)**

* Governor Reynolds announced a new Iowa Small Business Relief Program that will provide financial assistance to small businesses and tax deferrals to any Iowa businesses that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.
* Applications will be available tomorrow (Tuesday, March 24) at 8 a.m.: <https://www.iowaeconomicdevelopment.com/our-agency-detail-resources/6710>
* Application deadline is Tuesday, March 31, at 12 p.m.
* The program offers eligible small businesses grants ranging from $5,000-$25,000 in addition to offering Iowa businesses a deferral of sales and use or withholding taxes due and waiver of penalty and interest.
* Eligibility: business must be experiencing business disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic; must have employed between 2-25 people prior to March 17, 2020

**SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans**

* The SBA Office of Disaster Assistance continues to urge people to apply, even if they aren’t sure they’re going to take the loan once approved (say, for example, a better solution becomes available to them).
* By applying, businesses essentially "get in line" to see what they are eligible for. If approved, they'll know the amount of the loan, and then they may decide to take it or not.
* Application Portal: <https://disasterloan.sba.gov/ela?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>

**Iowa Workforce Unemployment COVID-19 Benefits**

* If employees are laid off due to COVID-19 or have to stay home to self-isolate, care for family members or due to illness related to COVID-19, they can receive unemployment benefits, provided several eligibility requirements are met.
* Claims that are filed and identified as a direct or indirect result of COVID-19, will not be charged to employers.
* <https://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov/updates-and-resources-about-covid-19>

Also, the Federal Government is working on an additional relief program. As it sits currently, there would be loans that have a guarantee of 100% with a portion of the loan being forgivable. As soon as we know more on this, I'll pass along the info.

Again, if anyone needs help with any of these resource, or any other SBDC services, you can direct them to me at any time. Thanks,

Ethan Pitt, CBA | *Regional Director*

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**America's SBDC - Iowa**Southwestern Community College  
1501 W. Townline  
Creston, IA  50801  
P: 641-782-1483  
C: 641 442-5275  
[www.iowasbdc.org](http://www.iowasbdc.org/)

* Greater Regional Health reminded us that starting Monday, March 23rd all patients visiting the facility must use the main entrance.  There you will be screened by healthcare professionals who will be taking temperatures and asking the purpose of your visit.  Please remember that Urgent Care will be seeing patients in a new space.  Patients will arrive at the main entrance and then be directed to the new location.  The south entrance is now closed.
* We have been notified that Iowa Focus is closed to the public starting March 24th.  Employees & individuals served can access the office daily between 8:30 a.m. and Noon or by appointment.  Please call 641-800-0028.
* Echo Electric is asking customers to call in their orders to the office at 641-782-9444 or to their salesman.  Once the order is placed we will put your order together and have it sitting by the front door along with your paperwork or if you prefer we can  bring it out to your vehicle. Echo is asking if you or anyone in your family have a cold or have traveled out of state in the last 2 weeks to avoid the lobby completely.  They ask you to ask for the curbside pickup/delivery.
* NuCara Home Medical is now operating curbside service and by appointment only.  Call first to allow them to prepare your order and to discuss delivery options.  They will allow customers in the building by appointment only. If you don't have a cell phone, please come to the door and wave, but do not congregate.  All payment and correspondence will be done via the telephone or mail.  641-782-7995.
* MATURA Outreach locations are still operating.  Food Pantries are in need of donations.  To drop off donations, or to pick up a Food Pantry box please call ahead.  Union County, Monday, Wednesday and Friday - 641-782-8431.
* Due to the COVID-19 pandemic all Social Security field offices are closed to the public for in-person services, except for certain dire emergencies.  They ask you consider using their online services.
* Medicap Pharmacy has closed their lobby but have their drive thru open.  They have several ways to order ahead to speed up the drive thru process.  Please call 641-782-6558, 24 hours a day and enter your prescription numbers into the automated system.  During regular business hours if you need to speak with the Creston location call their number and press 0.  You can also visit them at creston.medicap.com.
* Currently Southern Iowa Trolley plans to keep service available for as long as possible.  They have adopted a one person/family on the trolley rule.  There is no service in Greenfield until further notice due to the coronavirus case in Adair County.
* Lc Clinic is taking precautions as outlined by the CDC.  As of now their offices will remain open normal business hours.  They have implemented new screening procedures as well as extra precautions in cleaning and sanitizing to ensure the safety of their clients and staff.  For questions please call 641-782-2150.

**March 23rd at 4:55 p.m.**

Please see below information that has been released since the last Chamber Update.

* From IowaWorks: "The U.S. Department of Treasury, IRS and U.S. Department of Labor Announce Plan to Implement Coronavirus-Related paid leave for workers and tax credits for small and midsize businesses to swiftly recover the cost of providing Coronavirus-related leave" News release at this website - <https://www.dol.gov/newsroom/releases/osec/osec20200320?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery>
* From the Iowa Economic Development Authority - Iowa Small Business Relief Fund:
* **Governor Reynolds Announces COVID-19 Iowa Small Business Relief Program**

Financial Assistance and Tax Deferral Now Available to Eligible Small Businesses Impacted by COVID-19

March 23, 2020 (DES MOINES) – Governor Reynolds today announced the launch of a new Iowa Small Business Relief Program that will provide financial assistance to small businesses that have been economically impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program offers eligible small businesses grants ranging from $5,000-$25,000 in addition to offering Iowa businesses a deferral of sales and use or withholding taxes due and waiver of penalty and interest.

“Small businesses are the source of thriving main streets and community pride across Iowa,” said Gov. Reynolds. “The Small Business Relief Grant Program is another way we can support our small businesses during this unprecedented time.”

**Iowa Small Business Relief Program Grant:**

To be eligible for a small business relief grant, eligible businesses must:

* Be experiencing business disruption due to the COVID-19 pandemic
* Have employed between 2-25 people prior to March 17, 2020

The Small Business Relief Grants will assist eligible businesses in maintaining operations or reopening business following the COVID-19 pandemic. The funds may not be used to pay debts incurred prior to March 17, 2020.

The Iowa Economic Development Authority will review grant applications for eligibility and will determine the grant amount by the level of impact including loss in sales revenue and employees. Notification of award decisions and disbursement of grant funds will be expedited.

**Tax Assistance:**

The Iowa Department of Revenue will review each application as applicable, to determine if it is appropriate to grant a deferral of the eligible taxes and waiver of penalty and interest.

The dual application for grant assistance and tax deferral is available at [iowabusinessrecovery.com](https://t.e2ma.net/click/6ww4kd/e7hmvg/6c55vr). The deadline for applications is March 31 at 12:00 p.m. (noon). The program may be restricted due to funding availability.

**Locally:**

* To limit exposure, O'Reilly Auto Parts will be offering free Curbside Pickup.  Once you arrive call your local store's phone number and a team member will bring your items to your vehicle. 641-782-7046
* Hibbetts Sporting Goods shares that their updated hours are 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. until further notice.  They are also limiting the number of people including employees to 8 in the store at one time.
* Family Shoes has closed temporarily.

**March 23rd at 10:30 a.m.**

Back again today with some information and updates. As I have mentioned before, all of the "logs" appear on the Chamber Home Page for easy referral.

I wanted to start today's "log" with some great ideas and activities, under the circumstances, that some of our local folks and businesses have come up with. If you are offering or know of someone who is offering other activities please let me know and we will pass them along.

* Upper Crust Culinary Creations is offering a DYO cupcake and/or cookie kits for people and families.  Please contact her through her Facebook Page.
* Radiant Wellness Solutions is offering virtual classes.  Please contact her for details through her Facebook Page.
* The Southern Prairie YMCA has exercise ideas on their Facebook page - check them out.
* The Learning Center of SW Iowa is looking into the option of offering remote tutoring sessions to help your child maintain their current skills. These sessions would provide students with a packet of grade level materials and together with a tutor, via Zoom (web-based sharing program), would work thru the provided lessons, and finish the session with reading a book together. Open to all students....  Laptop and access to internet would be required.

Please email [tlctossian@gmail.com](mailto:tlctossian@gmail.com) with interest or to request more information. Thank you!

**Other items of note:**

* Please remember that starting today, March 23rd, the Creston Community Schools will begin offering, for students and families, Grab & Go Meals from the high school parking lot, modeled as a drive through.  These meals will require no preparation and are designed to provide a meal for today and the next day. This program will be offered Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  On Fridays, the Food Pantry will provide food that may last a week, at the parking lot and then again on Friday, from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
* The Creston Eagles Club will be offering Breaded or Grilled Loins ($5.00) with French Fries ($2.50) Curbside on Monday from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m - cash only.  Call your order in and park on the west side of building and it will be brought out to you. 641-782-4215.
* Walmart's Tuesday senior shopping time is 6 to 7 a.m.
* NAPA in Creston is still open for business.  They recommend you call ahead to see if what you need is available. 641-782-2125.
* Adams Street Espresso, because of their trip outside of Creston, will be closed until March 31st. Once they are open they will be doing carryout only.
* The Learning Center has suspended all face to face tutoring sessions until school resumes.  TLC's current remote tutoring students will continue as usual from the safety of your own home.

As always, stay safe and healthy.

**March 22nd at 7:00 p.m.**

* Effective at 10 p.m. on March 22nd, Governor Reynold's signed proclamation to close salons, tattoo establishment, barbershops, massage therapy businesses, tanning salons, medical spas and swimming pools due to the COVID-19 virus will go into effect.
* The proclamation also included suspending foreclosures for residential, commercial and agricultural properties.
* The proclamation also stated that medical licenses will not expire during the foreseeable future.
* UPS delivery operations have been designated critical infrastructure by the governments throughout the world.  They will continue to safely work during this challenging period.
* J & A Flooring is open but no samples will go out of the showroom.  They ask for minimal people per client.  They are still servicing as now.  Call 641-278-1077 with questions.
* Uptown Styles, per the Governor's Executive Order is closed for the time being.  If you have an appointment already scheduled they will communicate with you to get your appointment rescheduled.
* Dollar Tree is temporarily suspending online ordering in order to keep the stores in the communities as full as possible.
* Curbside pickup is now available for all Buy Online, Pickup in-store orders at Hibbett's.  Please call your store upon arrival and a Team Member will bring your order directly to your car.

**March 21st at 3:45 p.m.**

* The SBA issued a disaster declaration for the state of Iowa as of March 21, 2020. The declaration allows pandemic-impacted small businesses to apply for low-interest support loans. The declaration comes after Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds submitted a federal funding request via the SBA’s Economic Injury Disaster Loan program. Please see attached a letter from our Regional Director of our local SBDC Office here in Creston, Ethan Pitt, with additional information for the process. Please contact Ethan with any question.
* The Iowa Department of Public Health is asking Iowans who have traveled recently for business or spring break vacations outside of Iowa to strongly consider self-isolating for 14days.  They feel this will support Iowa's ongoing efforts to mitigate the spread of COVID-19 and limit the introduction of the virus from other points of travel. IDPH has implemented may provisions to emphasize social distancing and self-isolation after travel is another measure that Iowans can take to slow the spread of the virus and avoid quickly overburdening the healthcare system. (Per Governor Reynolds and the Iowa Department of Public Health statements).
* Please find an updated Restaurant list.  Many have specials online and on Facebook - several have added delivery options as well and being able to sell alcohol.  Please call them for information.
* Nishna Valley Credit Union Drive-up is open and the Lobby is closed, but they are available for loans and new accounts.  Please call 641-782-6080 to schedule an appointment.
* The Rectory Rerun is closed until March 31st.
* The Bookwyrm is closed until further notice. Please follow them on Facebook for updates on Webster.
* The SIRF Office is closed to the public.  Please call 641-782-4170 for information.
* Walmart Auto Care services have been suspended until further notice.  Flats will be repaired in an emergency and all appointments made prior to this will be honored.
* Family Shoes has reduced hours.  Please call for information 641-782-5426.
* Imagine the Possibilities is closed to unscheduled guests. Please call 712-581-0307 ext 2107, 2108, 2008 or 2119 with questions or if you need to meet with someone.
* Effective on March 20th the local IowaWORKS office has moved to limited in-person service.  Please call the following numbers for more information or visit their website at [www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov](http://www.iowaworkforcedevelopment.gov).
  + - Claimants:          1-866-239-0843
    - Employers          1-888-848-7442
    - Division of Labor  1-515-242-5870
    - Workers' Comp: 1-800-645-4583

**March 20th at 5:15 p.m.**

A couple of items to pass along to you.

* Below, please see part of the information from Waste Management to the City of Creston concerning their residential trash and recycle pick-ups.
* At present, Waste Management is maintaining a standard collection schedule for trash and recycle, and we are not experiencing any collection interruptions. If circumstances change that may impact our ability to provide services as scheduled, we will provide prompt updates to our customers and communities.  
  However, effective immediately the following changes are being implemented until further notice.  
  • Effective immediately, we are temporarily suspending the handling of incoming residential calls into our contact center, as we adopt social distancing, to help prevent the spread of the COVID-19. Our goal is to resume the residential call handling as soon as possible through a work from home program of our residential agents. In order to achieve this, the company has made technology investments of equipment to prepare our agents to work remotely.  
  • Bulky item collection including scheduled events or extra call in service for bulky items, such as large items outside the cart, is suspended until further notice.

As leaders in our highly regulated industry, we follow strict policies and procedures every day when managing solid waste, including medical waste, to protect our employees, our customers and the communities we serve. We will continue to follow all our protocols and perform our work with the utmost care.  Our teams are monitoring the latest information and continually evaluating recommendations as information becomes known or advisories are issued.  We will immediately communicate as further developments and information become available.

* Please note the clarification from an earlier update -  Green Valley Pest Control & Lawn Care is continuing to do "business as usual with **precautions"**.  For more information please call 641-782-4540.

We will continue to update you as information becomes available.

**March 20th at Noon**

Please find below information that hopefully you will find helpful and beneficial.

* As of this morning, March 20th,  Governor Reynolds signed an additional State Public Health Emergency Declaration - to see the full text please go to  - <https://governor.iowa.gov/press-release/gov-reynolds-signs-additional-state-public-health-emergency-declaration-will-hold>.  The declaration relaxes a number of restrictions and regulations and provides relief from other statues and state regulations - please see below.
* Temporarily suspends collection of property taxes and penalties and interest
* Temporarily suspends some evictions under the Iowa Uniform Residential Landlord and Tenant Act or the Manufactured Home Communities or Mobile Home Parks Residential Landlord and Tenant Act in certain circumstances
* Extends expiration deadline for a permit to carry and a permit to acquire a firearm and additional measures
* Permits the sale of carry-out, delivery, drive-thru of alcohol for unopened bottles of alcohol for bars and restaurants and suspends some fees
* Permits public meetings or hearings by electronic means to improve the functions of government while maintaining social distancing practices
* Suspends certain regulations to ease the transportation of agricultural supplies and commodities, food, medical supplies, cleaning products, and other household goods on all highways in Iowa
* The proclamation also allows related state agencies to implement the state’s public health emergency plan.
* Iowa has extended the State Income Tax Deadline filing to July 31st.
* The website for Great Regional Health is - <https://www.greaterregional.org/>.  Please visit it for recent updates from them.
* Walmart will be open 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. starting March 19th until further notice. They will have limits for customers in certain categories. Walmart will host an hour long senior shopping event every Tuesday starting March 24th.
* Great Western Bank lobby is closed at this time.  Banking services will be provided through the drive through. If you should need specialized banking services please call 641-782-9300.
* Dr. Brian Kinkade of Walmart Vision Center is continuing to take patients.  Customers can continue to have repairs made to their glasses and get contact lenses, but orders for new glasses are on hold at this time.  Please be assured that all safety precautions are in place.
* Effective Friday, March 20th Bomgarrs store hours will be Monday through Saturday 7:30 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sunday will be normal hours.  Effective Monday March 23rd they will be adding curbside and carryout service.  Call ahead with "what you need" and they will have it ready when you arrive.  Call Bomgarrs at 641-782-2317 for more details.
* Creston Vision Clinic will close on March 20th at 5 p.m. and will not reopen until April 6th.  For emergencies please call 641-782-7619.
* Beginning on March 23rd the Creston Community Schools and the Food Pantry will offer for students and families the opportunity to receive Grab & Go Meals. These meals will not require preparation and are designed to provide a meal for the day and the following day.  The Food Pantry intends to provide food that may last a week. The District Grab & Go Meals will be available Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the High School Parking Lot. The Food Pantry will be there on Fridays and return on Fridays from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
* EveryStep has closed their offices to the general public except for some in the Des Moines Area and the Greater Regional Hospice House in Creston with new visitor guidelines.  EveryStep has shared that all in-person volunteer services or visits have been suspended until further notice and the Bucket Bash has been postponed. Please contact them by calling 641-782-6620 with any questions.
* Green Valley Pest Control & Lawn Care is continuing to do "business as usual with precautions".  for more information please call 641-782-4540.
* Studio 101 is temporarily closed until April 1st.
* Quik Cash is drive through only and shorter hours.  Please call 641-782-8261 for more information.

**March 19th at 4 p.m.**

The following is information that we have received since my earlier email today.

* If you have questions or upper respiratory symptoms, please call Greater Regional Health help desk  at 641-782-1194 between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and you will speak to a RN. After hours please dial 641-782-7091. Please call ahead if you are sick.
* Starting Monday March 23rd Greater Regional Health all patients visiting the facility must use the main entrance.  There you will be screened by healthcare professionals who will be taking temperatures and asking the purpose of your visit.  Also on Monday, Urgent Care will be seeing patients in a new space.  Patients will still arrive at the main entrance and then be directed to the new location.  The south entrance where Urgent Care is located currently will be closed.
* Please see the attached Press Release from Crossroads Behavioral Health Services concerning their service during the COVID -19 virus.
* Coen's Furniture has moved to appointment-shopping only. They can be contacted by phone - 641-782-2121 or email.
* If you are looking for childcare during this time, please contact I Think I Can Childcare Center and their Before and After School Childcare Program - 641-782-7117. They have openings at the Center.
* PCSB Bank is open for drive-up interactive Teller Services and limited lobby services by appointment only - please call 800-432-0387.
* Until further notice, the Union County Extension Office is closed to the public. Their phone number is 641-782-8436.
* The Creston Eagles Club closed today, March 19th at Noon until further notice.
* Buck Family Dentistry closed today, March 19th at Noon for all elective and non-urgent dental care for 3 weeks due to the COVID-19 situation. The office will continue to be open taking phone calls for scheduling.  Both Dr. Michael Buck and Dr. Dave Buck will continue to provide emergency care to patients who need it.  Please call 641-782-4747 or 641-782-2817 with any questions.
* Dr. Wm Todd Scott, Family & Cosmetic Dentistry will be closing the office beginning on Friday March 20th. All elective procedures will be rescheduled, including hygiene cleanings.  If you're having pain, a dental emergency or would like to schedule an appointment please call 641-202-2413 or 641-782-7587.  We intend to return to normal office hours on April 6th.
* Dr. Dan Coen's Dental Office is closed through April 3rd.  Please call 641-782-8014 with an emergency.
* Southern Hills Veterinary Services is still seeing patients. They have implemented a few additional protocols, like picking your pet up at the car.
* Advance Services Inc - 301 E. Taylor/Hwy 34 E Taylor is interviewing for multiple job openings in the Creston Area.  If you are seeking employment please call 641-782-3300.
* Family Vision Center, 807 N. Sumner Ave/Hwy 25 Office in Creston and their five other locations closed March 18th and plan to re-open on April 3rd.  They will work with patients to pick up contacts and glasses and will remain open for emergency care.  For questions please call the office at 641-782-2111.
* Rieman Music, 701 W. Townline Street - 641-782-5121 -  will be going to reduced hours starting Friday, March 20th.  The new hours will be Monday through Friday Noon to 3 p.m. and closed Saturday and Sunday until further notice.
* American Home Design Center will be open as usual through Friday, March 20th. Starting Monday, March 23rd they will be open by appointment only and will not be doing any home measurements at this time.  Please call 641-782-4193 or make an appointment on their Facebook Page. As they mentioned, "we are trying to do our part to straighten the curve"

**March 19th at 10:30 a.m.**

Please see below information that has come to the Chamber since my last email of yesterday afternoon, March 18th.  As a reminder, all emails that have come from the Chamber with information since Monday, March 16th are on the Chamber Website, so if you need to check something it is all there in one spot for your convenience.  We are still providing information on Facebook and Twitter, but are trying to then tie all of that into these emails as well. Please keep sending me updates or questions as we move through this together.

I have attached an updated Restaurant list, since the one I sent out yesterday was incorrect.  This corrected  information is also on our Website.

* If you have not done so already, I would suggest using IowaWorks Updates & Resources about COVID-19 link - <https://www.linkedin.com/company/crossroadscreston/?utm_source=WiseStamp&utm_medium=email&utm_term=&utm_content=&utm_campaign=signature>.  It has excellent information and is updated regularly with information that you might find helpful.
* Starting today, March 19th all Hy-Vee stores will reserve 7 a.m. to 8 a.m. for their customers 60+,expectant moms & anyone with underlying conditions.  All other customers may shop during their new hours of 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. seven days a week.
* Alliant Energy has temporarily suspended disconnects for non-payment and intends to waive late fees.  Please contact Alliant Energy for complete information and dates.
* The Iowa Department of Transportation has shared that if  your driver's license or vehicle registration is expired or expiring you do not need to renew at this time.  they are suggesting you wait until the declared disaster has ended.
* The DNR has shared that "as of now all State Parks are open".
* All local Social Security offices are closed to the public for in-person service as of Tuesday, March 17, 2020.  " We are still able to provide critical services.  Please visit our [Social Security & Coronavirus](https://u7061146.ct.sendgrid.net/ls/click?upn=4tNED-2FM8iDZJQyQ53jATUbV-2BlWTZpfS6NsnZlI54HzsaR1EV8BmJhbnZsS5fhbDnDXiL_01n5mfvMdDKQARnKmjz4MpEk68MBjeN8OzLr8XeVsnzJfkR6wIO3um87xLhKz1veY1burRSZLPjYGEdq9oWNzjwtL7fY2FQslxd3-2Bgbl8LzkgpQJfc1F-2F4YEThCuTHM0ufiYMPE27Ozftp7Z8LXqGyyx7wPOuXQS998B5Xp-2F9-2FjM9vU9yChgbDWtJD2mlCS-2FcLHHBM-2FEJc3QNomG4dLD2FjID3T8FYR1ZgM3UEq7q4j6brfu4K3c5vVmCBHvmOcf7btXh7bIsff-2Fz9yZ8q-2BFkzBFK4dprXi2xeyznUzXW63ajKUfHul2RnUXAL8U2j2rec-2FXez6qJOhc8CJYZoecRrfOyeYDFsYuhR-2FuilxBmVU-3D) webpage to get updates on the latest, including how to get help from the Social Security Administration by phone and online."
* During this National emergency, Pearson Family Funeral Service & Cremation Center will continue to have someone in the office, or available to assist any family, 24 hours a day/7 days a week.  If a death should occur, we will follow the guidelines suggested by the local, state and federal authorities.  Pearson Family Funeral Service & Cremation Center is offering Live Streaming free of charge until April 1st.
* Chat Mobility Retail Stores will be Closed Temporarily Until Further Notice due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Though our doors will be locked, we will continue to assist your needs:

1. Our retail stores hours will remain the same.   
9a – 6p, M-F. | Sat 9a – 1p. | Closed - Sun.

2. Payment drop-off boxes will remain available at all Chat Mobility retail stores and payments will be promptly processed.

3. If you have questions or need support, please dial 611+Send on your cellular phone or call 800-944-5526.

* The Creston Kiwanis Club Pancake Day scheduled for March 31st has been postponed.

Please stay safe and remember social distancing and to wash your hands often.  As I read somewhere - Vigilant Against the Virus, Confident in Commerce!”

**March 18th at 3:30 p.m.**

* To begin, the Chamber has set up a "log" on the Chamber Website Home Page - [www.crestoniowachamber.com](http://www.crestoniowachamber.com) - with all of the information that we have shared through emails, Facebook and Twitter, which is dated.  Hopefully this will make your life somewhat easier rather than checking several sources or going back to double check information or verify.  I am sure we have not included all of the information out there, but please know we have tried to capture all that we could or saw.
* Greater Regional Health reminds us to call first if you are planning on coming in.  Please call the help desk at 641-782-1194 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and after hours please call 641-782-7091.
* from Jo Duckworth Union County Emergency Management - 641-782-1622

**Consider Donating Personal Protect Equipment to Assist in COVID-19 Response**

Businesses and organizations are urged to donate personal protective equipment, or PPE, by contacting their local public health department and the county emergency management agency.

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) is encouraging Iowa businesses and organizations to donate extra personal protective equipment to assist health care providers and health care facilities responding to COVID-19.

"This an unprecedented public health disaster, and stocks of personal protective equipment for health care providers are being used rapidly," said Ken Sharp, division director of Acute Disease Prevention, Emergency Response and Environmental Health. "Any organizations that have extra PPE supplies that aren't immediately needed should consider donating them to help those on the front line of this disease."

Any type of health care PPE will be welcomed, especially gloves, gowns, eye protection, and masks. Local public health and local emergency management officials will can work to address needs locally and beyond.

To donate PPE, please contact county public health department or local emergency manager. Local health department contact information can be found at <https://idph.iowa.gov/lphs/local-public-health-agencies>, county emergency management agency information can be found at <https://www.homelandsecurity.iowa.gov/documents/county/COORD_Public_List.pdf>.

* Please find attached an information sheet on the restaurants in Creston and how they are operating during this time.
* The Gibson Memorial Library is offering a curbside Pick-up Library To Go.  Email or call the Library at 641-782-2277.
* Studio 101 is currently open and serving Quik Cash customers in the drive thru only.  All hair salon apts will be spaced out and customers  are asked to wait on the benches which are sanitized after each use or in their car for text message updates.  Tanning continues with more disinfecting on top of what we already have been doing.  Level Up Extreme Gaming is closed and Quik Pawn is open.  Please call Angie at 641-202-6916 with questions.
* ISSB reminded us  -  that they will have limited access to their lobbies beginning Tuesday, March 17th. Their drive up windows will remain open during normal business hours in their Creston and Lenox locations. They will consider in person appointments as needed. To request an appointment or speak with a Customer Service Representative, call 888-508-0142.
* Effective at noon today, March 18, 2020, SWCC college offices will be staffed, but all college facilities will be closed to the general public and walk-in traffic. Please follow the link for the entire announcement:  <https://www.swcciowa.edu/news/2020/announcement-from-swcc-president-regarding-office-closure-to-public>
* **SIRWA Response to COVID-19 -**

Water supply is critically important to the public health of our community at all times, and Southern Iowa Rural Water association (SIRWA) recognizes our role in our region has grown even more critical in recent weeks.

* Effective immediately, in the interest of protection of our SIRWA Staff, the SIRWA office will be closed to walk-in traffic. If you stop by to make a payment during office hours and you don’t know the amount, please call the office at 641-782-5744 and we will gladly give you the correct amount. There is a separate container attached to the drop box containing envelopes for your convenience.
* At this time all other business procedures will remain in place; including late charges & shut-offs. We will continue to monitor the situation & will update our customers if necessary.

Customer Service/Payment Alternative Options

* **Phone:** Please call (641) 782-5744, and a Customer Service Representative is available to assist you Monday-Friday from 8:00 am to 4:00 pm. Until further notice, we will be waiving the $4 phone fee.
* **Online Account:** Login to online account to pay by credit card or access account details.
* **Drop Box:** Place bill stub and payment in the payment drop box located at the SIRWA Office next to the flagpole.
* **Mail:** Mail bill stub and payment to PO Box 407, Creston, Iowa, 50801-407.
* Hy Vee Dollar Fresh will close at 8 p.m. on March 18th and starting March 19 new store hours will be 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., seven days a week until further notice.
* Lori's Boutique store front is currently closed but you can still shop Online - [www.lorisboutique.net](http://www.lorisboutique.net)
* Spotlight School of Dance will have online classes opening March 30th
* The Creston Area Food Pantry will have food available on Sunday's from Noon to 2 p.m. the food will be prebagged.
* Powers Funeral Home shares that since the government is requiring 10 or less attendees at a service for at least the next 2 weeks, they are offering live streaming.
* Java J's is open on a carry-out basis only.

**March 18th at 10:30 a.m.**

* Creston City Hall is, **" Effective at 10:00 am this morning, Creston City Hall is closing their doors to the public to limit the spread of COVID-19."**
* **The Union County Court House is closed to the public. Please call for information.**
* **First National Bank as of Thursday, March 19, 2020, will limit their bank lobby access to appointments only.  First National Bank will keep regular drive-thru hours and ATMs and digital services available.** Your banker will be proactively contacting customers who require timely service, such as mortgage closings and loan signings. **Please call 641-782-2195 with questions.**
* **Office Machines is closed to the public, but are there and available to assist customers.  Please call 641-782-8464**.
* **Little Caesars is open for carry out  in both lobby and drive thru. You can always call ahead at 641-782-2080 or you can order through our website** [**www.littlecaesars.com**](http://www.littlecaesars.com) **or Little Caesars app and pick up in lobby or drive thru.**

**March 17at 4:30 p.m.**

* **From Creston Community Schools - School is closed  and activities are cancelled through April 12th.**
* **Iowa State Savings Bank will have limited access to their lobbies beginning Tuesday, March 17th. Their drive up windows will remain open during normal business hours in their Creston and Lenox locations. They will consider in person appointments as needed. To request an appointment or speak with a Customer Service Representative, call 888-508-0142.**
* **Leslies Dance & Tumbling in Creston and Mt Ayr Will be holding virtual classes beginning Monday March 23rd and will continue until further notice.**

**The email to parents with all the details will be sent out shortly. The Spring Showcase is still scheduled for May 9 & 10. This will be adjusted as necessary.**

* **The  dine in/buffet at Pizza Ranch is currently closed.   We do however still offer:**

**Delivery both phone orders - 641-782-7337 -  and on-line service. Lot's of specials available right now!**

**Pick-up. Either come on in and get it or arrange with us and we will run it out to your car.**

* **Casa de Oro is open normal business hours for takeout orders only - 641-782-5218.**
* **SIRHA is closed to the public until further notice - please call 641-782-8585.**
* **The  EDWARD JONES  offices are not taking walk ins or allowing any face to face app.’s until further notice. We are still  here to answer phones with questions or any services that clients may need.**
* **Creston Fareway beginning March 18 will have new store hours - 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday through Saturday.      From 8 to 9 a.m. the store will be open only to those 65 & older or with increased susceptibility to serious illness and expecting mothers.  From 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. the store will be open to the public.**

**March 17th at 11:23 a.m.**

* The Creston Waterworks/Creston Utilities Office is now closed to walk-ins.
* The Southern Prairie YMCA and Gibson Memorial Library are now closed to the public.
* We have closed the Chamber Office to the public, but will be available by phone, email, text and social media.  If you have Creston Bucks to "cash in" please call ahead.