
ORDER'S UP! THANKS TO AN SBA LOAN, COSMIC COWBOY
GRILL IS BACK TO COOKING ON ALL CYLINDERS

When restaurant owner, Steve Eller, was forced to furlough most of his staff due to COVID-19, Idaho Central Credit Union swiftly stepped in with a lifeline.

In 2017, Steve Eller brought healthy and delicious gourmet food to Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, when he opened his "fast casual" eatery, Cosmic Cowboy Grill. With a diverse menu consisting of fresh, farm-to-table ingredients, Cosmic Cowboy Grill offers tasty and nutritious options to health and fitness enthusiasts in the Northwest.

When COVID-19 hit, Eller said the restaurant's dine-in business began dropping off significantly.

"We saw a pretty dramatic drop in customers, so we were already reeling from it. When your revenue stops, the only way to turn off your labor is to furlough people."

That's the last thing Eller ever wanted to do.

"It's been a three-year marathon to build the really good team that we have," he said. "To furlough those folks was ... well, first, we value them as individuals, so it was personally distressing. And from the business side — we finally got a team that was really cooking on all cylinders, and we had to send them home."

When the Small Business Administration launched the Paycheck Protection Program, Eller went straight to Idaho Central Credit Union, where he's been a business client for two years, to apply for the loan. In a matter of days, it was approved.

"It was really fast," Eller said. "I applied on a Friday and had the approval the following week."

The loan was a lifeline for Eller, allowing him to bring back most of his valued staff. As both Idaho and Washington began lifting "stay-at-home orders," Eller said he was grateful to be reopening at all after two months of takeout-only service.

"I'm incredibly grateful for the PPP. I was personally committed to getting everyone back to work and off of unemployment, and the loan helped us do that," said Eller. "I'm happy to say that during the eight weeks of our PPP, our business in Coeur D'Alene came back to close to where it should be this time of year."

To date, ICCU has given over 3,650 PPP loans, totaling \$165,000,000 and keeping over 24,000 Idahoans employed.



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IDAHO CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

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PPP LOANS

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PPP LOANS FUNDED