Evan Vucci/AP Photo

President Donald Trump speaks before he signs the coronavirus stimulus relief package in the Oval Office at the White House on Friday.

$2.2 trillion bill offers an economic lifeline

Aimed at giving families, companies cash cushion

By PAUL WISEMAN and JOYCE M. ROSENBERG
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — In the coronavirus crisis, even doctors can face a cash crunch.

Dr. Benjamin Ticho, an ophthalmologist in Chicago Ridge, Illinois, has seen his revenue plunge 80% as patients stay home and he cancels non-emergency surgeries. He's cut his staff's hours sharply and is negotiating with his creditors.

"We've reached out to many of our bigger vendors and said, 'Hey, we may be facing a cash crunch — can you give us a break, or at least defer payments?' Many have been sympathetic," said Ticho, who owes loans on medical equipment. He's giving his patients a break, too, by holding off for now on collecting their unpaid balances.

The record $2.2 trillion emergency relief package that Congress gave final approval to Friday and President Donald Trump signed into law is aimed at businesses like Ticho's and people like his patients: Caught in a public health lockdown that has closed companies and brought economic life to a standstill, they are at risk of running out of money and being unable to pay bills or meet daily expenses.

The idea behind the measure is to give companies and families a cash cushion to better weather the health crisis and looming recession. When it's safe to go back to work, dine out and book airline tickets again, the thinking goes, they'll be more financially ready to return to something closer to normal life.

"It will inject trillions of dollars of cash into the economy as fast as possible to help American workers, families, small businesses and industries make it through this disruption and emerge on the other side ready to soar," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., who helped negotiate the package.

So Congress is sending a one-time payment directly to most American adults and U.S. residents with Social Security numbers. That amounts to $1,200 for single adults earning up to $75,000 a year and $2,400 for married couples earning up to $150,000, plus $500 per child. Someone filing as head of household would get the full payment if they earn $112,500 or less.

The payment is reduced by $5 for each $100 that a taxpayer's income exceeds those thresholds, and is completely phased-out for single filers with incomes exceeding $99,000, $146,500 for head of household filers with one child, and $198,000 for joint filers with no children.

The package will also help replace the earnings of unemployed workers for four months, providing them with their state's unemployment benefits plus an extra $600 a week. For the first time, gig economy workers such as Uber drivers can claim unemployment benefits, too.

The support for individuals and households is especially important because the social safety net in America isn't as strong as it is in the wealthy developed countries of Europe.

Trump issued an order Friday that seeks to force General Motors to produce ventilators for coronavirus patients under the Defense Production Act.

Trump said negotiations with General Motors had been productive, "but our fight against the virus is too urgent to allow the give-and-take of the contracting process to continue to run its normal course."

He said "GM was wasting time" and said his actions will help ensure the quick production of ventilators that will save American lives.

Previously Trump has been reluctant to use the act to force businesses to contribute to the coronavirus fight, and wasn't clear what triggered his order against GM.

The Detroit automaker is farthest along in the effort to make more of the critical breathing machines. It's working with Ventec Life Systems, a small Seattle-area ventilator maker to increase the company's production and repurpose a GM auto electronics plant in Kokomo, Indiana, to make the machines. The company said Friday it could build 10,000 ventilators per month starting in April with potential to make even more.

The relief package also includes $50 billion in tax credits for businesses that keep employees on payroll and will cover 50% of those workers' paychecks. Companies can also defer payment of the 6.2% Social Security tax, giving them an incentive to put off layoffs at a time when ordinary business has come to a halt.

Also included is $454 billion in seed money that will allow the Federal Reserve to make roughly $4.5 trillion in loans to larger industries.

At $2.2 trillion, the money that Congress and the Trump administration are throwing at the economic crisis amounts to more than 10% of America's gross domestic product — the broadest measurement of economic output. By comparison, President Barack Obama's $787 billion stimulus plan in the depths of the Great Recession amounted to about 5.5% of GDP.

And that doesn't count what else the Fed is doing. It has slashed its benchmark interest rate to zero. It's flooding financial markets with cash by buying up securities, including government and, for the first time, corporate bonds. It's also buying so-called commercial paper, short-term IOUs that companies issue to cover operating costs such as payrolls. And it's readying a loan program for small businesses.

OBITUARIES

Luther L. Vanderburg III

Sherwood
March 16, 1964 — March 1, 2020

Luther L. Vanderburg III, age 55, of Sherwood, Oregon, died unexpectedly in Tigard, Oregon, on March 1, 2020.

Luther "Lu" was born in Astoria, Oregon, on March 16, 1964 to Luther (Red) and Frances Vanderburg. He was raised in Knappa and graduated from Knappa High School in 1982. Lu worked at various jobs through his high school years, but Carmichael Oil Co. was his favorite as a dock hand. He loved the Columbia River, filling the fishing boats with fuel and conversing with everyone.

Luther Vanderburg III

Lu started his first full-time job as a logger for Shawn Teevin and then as a choker setter for Nygaard Logging. He lived in the old McPherson-Vanderburg homestead with his much loved black lab, B.C. (Broken Choker). After an accident in the logging industry he moved to Tigard and worked for a few companies before going into partnership with Weed Man Co. out of Canada. That folded and Lu started his own company, TGA (The Grass Authority) Service, which he worked until his death.

Lu loved the outdoors: hunting, fishing and especially clam digging. For 10 plus years Lu brought his TGA equipment to the Knappa sport fields to help ready them for the opening seasons.

In addition to his wife Karla, he is survived by two daughters, Amy Dean (Brock), and Angela Thiemann (Tanner); granddaughter Raegan Dean; mother Frances Vanderburg; siblings Pamela Dean (Craig), Karen Newman, Richard Vanderburg, Becky Pas, Kenneth Vanderburg (Candi), and Rodney Vanderburg (Elizabeth); an aunt, Geraldine Gould; and many cousins, nephews and nieces.

A celebration of his life was held at Sunset Beach in Gearhart on March 21. Contributions, if desired, may be made to KSR-Knappa Summer Recreation.

Mary Dolores Layton

Burnside
April 15, 1932 — March 18, 2020

It is with great sadness that the family of Mary Dolores Layton announces her passing on Wednesday, March 18, 2020, in Burnside. She was 87.

Dolores was born on April 15, 1932, in St. Peter, Minnesota, to Andrew and Hilda Spence. She graduated from St. Anthony's High School in 1951, and soon after made the move to Hollywood, California, where she met her future husband and love of her life, Delmar Leon Layton. They married June 8, 1958.

Mary Layton

The couple settled in Burnside in the late 1970s, where they raised their three children, Denise, Diane and David. As a family, they enjoyed camping, riding motorcycles and trips back east to visit family in Kansas and Minnesota.

Dolores was a talented seamstress, a devoted homemaker and the absolute best mother and grandmother. She enjoyed gardening, baking, canning, square dancing and aqua aerobics. She was a devoted parishioner at St. Mary, Star of the Sea Catholic Church for 43 years, and hardly ever missed a Sunday.

She will be lovingly remembered by her three children, Denise Duffy (Ed), Diane Beckwith and David Layton (Kim); her grandchildren, Jodi Bissonette (Justin), Emily Beckwith, Danny Beckwith (Eden), Andrew Layton, Bradley Beckwith (Kaci) and Cody Layton; and great-granddaughter Adalyn.

Dolores will also be fondly remembered by her siblings, Rita (Lloyd), Bernadette (Bill), Monica (Kenny), Peggy (Henry) and Bill (Joyce), and by a sister-in-law, Mayme Spence.

Dolores was preceded in death by her husband and best friend, Delmar, and her brother, Robert Spence.

A celebration of life for Dolores will be held at a later date.

Memorial donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association.

Follow us on Facebook! FACEBOOK.COM/DAILYASTORIAN

NEW LOCATION
SEASIDE/GEARHART
3003 HWY 101
503.717.5206
UNDER NEW OWNERSHIP
We Provide Year Round:
• Tax Preparation • E-file • Tax Planning
• Business Services - Bookkeeping & Payroll
• Tax Audit Support & Services
• Free 2nd Look Review • Peace of Mind
• Enrolled Agent Audit Representation
• DLTC 26932 & OBTP B15100 & B14489
Our preparers are Licensed with the Oregon Board of Tax Practitioners.
We offer Tax Identity Shield®
A Tool to help you better protect yourself from tax identity theft.
COME BY, CALL, OR MAKE AN APPOINTMENT TODAY.
100% satisfaction guarantee
100% accuracy guarantee
Maximum refund guarantee
H&R BLOCK
3003 HWY 101
SEASIDE/GEARHART
503.717.5206
1092 Marine Drive
Astoria
503.325.1166

SEVEN-DAY FORECAST FOR ASTORIA

AccuWeather – DOWNLOAD THE FREE APP

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
52 43	52 43	50 41	50 38	50 37	51 36	53 37
A little p.m. rain	A few morning showers	Breezy with rain	Cloudy, a shower; cool	Showers possible	Showers possible	Showers possible

ALMANAC

Astoria through Thursday

Temperatures

High/low	48/36
Normal high/low	55/40
Record high	72 in 1994
Record low	29 in 1996

Precipitation

Thursday	0.03"
Month to date	3.01"
Normal month to date	6.35"
Year to date	28.05"
Normal year to date	23.99"

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2020

UNDER THE SKY

Tonight's Sky: Use the handle of the Big Dipper to arc to Arcturus, speed down to Spica.

Source: Jim Todd, OMSI

SUN AND MOON

Sunrise today	7:02 a.m.
Sunset tonight	7:39 p.m.
Moonrise today	9:15 a.m.
Moonset today	none

First	Full	Last	New
Apr 1	Apr 7	Apr 14	Apr 22

TODAY'S TIDES

Time	High (ft.)	Time	Low (ft.)
Astoria / Port Docks			
3:54 a.m.	8.1	10:46 a.m.	0.5
4:59 p.m.	6.5	10:32 p.m.	2.3
Cape Disappointment			
3:40 a.m.	7.8	9:59 a.m.	0.6
4:28 p.m.	6.5	9:47 p.m.	2.7
Hammond			
3:49 a.m.	8.2	10:18 a.m.	0.4
4:45 p.m.	6.7	10:08 p.m.	2.4
Warrenton			
3:49 a.m.	8.5	10:30 a.m.	0.6
4:54 p.m.	6.9	10:16 p.m.	2.4
Knappa			
4:31 a.m.	8.4	11:47 a.m.	0.4
5:36 p.m.	6.8	11:33 p.m.	2.0
Depoe Bay			
2:51 a.m.	8.1	9:28 a.m.	0.7
3:47 p.m.	6.7	9:17 p.m.	2.8

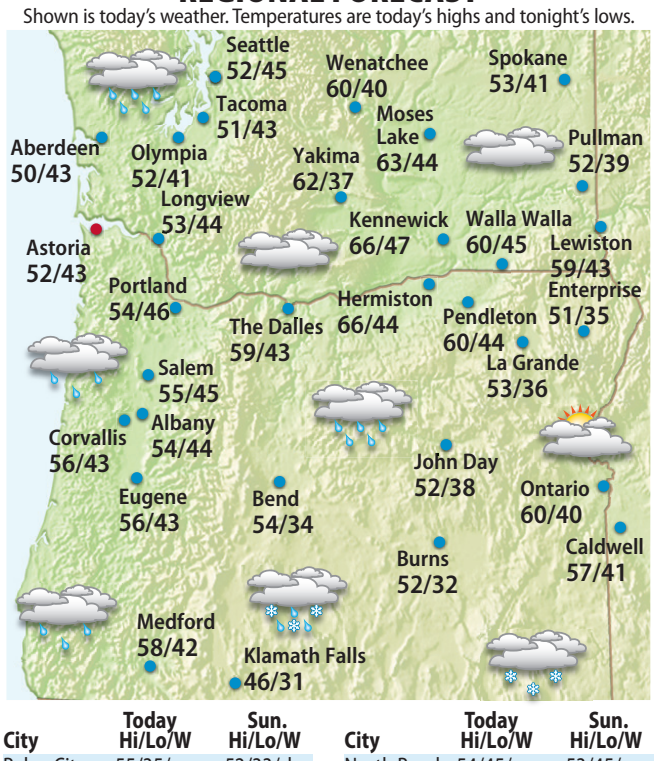
NATIONAL CITIES

City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Atlanta	84/66/pc	75/57/pc
Boston	53/39/s	45/41/r
Chicago	61/47/r	53/38/c
Dallas	75/51/pc	77/58/s
Denver	50/29/pc	54/31/c
Honolulu	78/68/sh	79/68/pc
Houston	82/58/t	82/65/pc
Los Angeles	66/51/pc	67/50/c
Miami	85/72/s	87/74/s
New York City	52/45/r	58/50/sh
Phoenix	71/53/c	77/52/pc
San Francisco	59/50/c	60/49/sh
Wash., DC	60/54/r	78/54/c

Weather (W): **s**-sunny, **pc**-partly cloudy, **c**-cloudy, **sh**-showers, **t**-thunderstorms, **r**-rain, **sf**-snow flurries, **sn**-snow, **i**-ice.

REGIONAL FORECAST

Shown is today's weather. Temperatures are today's highs and tonight's lows.



City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W	City	Today Hi/Lo/W	Sun. Hi/Lo/W
Baker City	55/35/c	52/33/sh	North Bend	54/45/r	53/45/c
Brookings	52/44/r	52/47/sh	Roseburg	58/44/c	58/44/sh
Ilwaco	51/44/r	51/44/sh	Seaside	51/44/r	52/44/sh
Newberg	53/44/r	54/44/r	Springfield	56/44/r	55/44/r
Newport	51/43/r	51/43/sh	Vancouver	53/46/r	55/46/r