

RELIEF from page 1A

have caused turmoil in nearly every aspect of life in the U.S. and across the globe.

Millions of Americans are unexpectedly unemployed, major transportation and entertainment corporations have ceased operating and the pandemic has essentially stopped commerce in many segments of the economy.

Friday, the stimulus package was sent to U.S. President Donald Trump, who quickly signed the bill.

However, pressure continues to build in the business sector in spite of the stimulus act as millions of Americans have suddenly found themselves out of work. New unemployment claims in Oregon alone shot up nearly 1,500 percent last week, with 76,500 new claims — up from 4,900 the prior week, according to the Oregon Employment Department.

Meanwhile, the nation still faces escalating numbers of Americans testing positive for the COVID-19 virus and dying in large numbers. As of Thursday, the U.S. had the highest number of known cases of coronavirus in the world, surpassing China and Italy with 82,100 cases reported by health officials at the Centers for Disease Control.

The stimulus package is seen as a strong step in what is clearly the most challenging situation the country has faced since 9/11, said Oregon's U.S. Sen. Ron Wyden, the ranking

member of the Senate Finance Committee and chief negotiator in crafting CARES.

“From the start, Democrats made it clear that struggling families and small businesses must be the priority in any economic package passed by Congress,” said Wyden. “I fought hard for a bill that would help those Oregonians who have no way to pay their bills for potentially months down the road, and the small businesses struggling to stay afloat during this crisis. There is lots of work ahead, but tonight the Senate took the right step toward helping alleviate the economic pain so many Oregonians are feeling.”

U.S. Sen. Jeff Merkley (D) has also been deeply involved with contributing to the provisions of the package, while paying particular attention to the needs of the health care workers that are the front-line responders during the pandemic.

“As the husband of a nurse, I’ve seen up close how difficult their jobs are and how important they are to patients,” Merkley said. “As this pandemic intensifies, nurses will be on the frontlines of the fight against the coronavirus. We needed a major investment in nurses and the nursing workforce even before this crisis hit, and we need it even more now. We must realize that any choice between our lives and our livelihoods is a false choice — we cannot have one without the other.

“This proposal invests in

both health care and the economy. It provides desperately needed relief so that we can save lives now and keep families afloat until we have defeated this virus. Now, Congress must pass it, and the president must sign it, without delay.”

More than 3 million Americans filed for unemployment benefits last week, five times the highest number of single week applications ever filed.

Important aspects of the CARES legislation include:

- Direct payments to single Americans making less than \$99,000.

- A new federal Pandemic Unemployment Assistance program which will cover workers not covered by traditional unemployment insurance, including self-employed and gig workers. Workers covered by traditional unemployment insurance and the new pandemic program will receive a 13-week extension of available benefits (39 weeks total) and an additional \$600 per week for four months, which will be full wage replacement for many workers.

- \$100 billion for hospitals and other providers to deal with overcapacity and other challenges. The bill also secures policies that ensure seniors with Medicare can receive up to 90 days of prescriptions at a time, boost care at home through telemedicine and increased use of non-physician providers and makes the eventual COVID-19 vaccine free for seniors.

- \$400 million for states to

expand vote by mail, early voting, and other measures to reduce health risks from voting.

- More than \$10 billion for the Indian Health Services and other tribal programs.

- Establishment of robust worker protections attached to all federal loans for businesses.

- \$30 billion in emergency education funding and \$25 billion in emergency transit funding.

- \$30 billion for the Disaster Relief Fund to provide financial assistance to state, local, tribal and territorial governments, as well as private nonprofits providing critical and essential services.

- Prohibition on businesses controlled by the president, vice president, members of congress, and heads of executive departments from receiving loans or investments from Treasury programs.

In addition, the bill provides \$450 million for the Emergency Food Assistance Program, a primary support mechanism for food pantries, which are expected to see more clients as job losses mount. Some \$350 million would buy additional food, and \$100 million would be used for distribution.

The package also provides \$200 million for food assistance for Puerto Rico and other US territories, as well as \$100 million for food distribution on American Indian reservation

In yet another encouraging example of working together, Democratic senators Wyden

and Merkley, along with Democratic U.S. representatives Peter DeFazio, Earl Blumenauer, Suzanne Bonamici and Republican Representatives Kurt Schrader and Greg Walden, sent a joint letter Friday to the White House supporting Oregon Gov. Kate Brown's request for a major disaster declaration for the entire state as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“We have heard from rural health clinics, hospitals and providers who are having to lay off employees due to reduced patient care and declining revenues. We have heard from heroic frontline health care workers stressed about the lack of test kits and personal protective equipment,” the lawmakers wrote in their letter. “We have heard from small business owners suffering financially and wondering how to put food on the table. We have heard from volunteers in rural fire and ambulance districts who must choose whether to self-quarantine or continue providing critical public safety services to their communities.

“Oregon is a resilient and forward-thinking state and Oregonians are working hard to secure shelter for people who are homeless and medical care for those who need it. But no state will be able to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic alone, which is why we urge you to approve Governor Brown's full request for assistance.”

FOOD from page 1A

These foods are high in protein and can be used in numerous ways, making for more interesting meals and also promoting healthy energy levels.

There is also a whole array of rice products available now that do not require boiling water and can be cooked in minutes in a microwave oven.

Perhaps the most healthy and undervalued emergency food are fruits and vegetables. Oranges, apples, tangerines and

pitted fruits like pears, figs and plums can be purchased inexpensively and can ripen and be eaten over time. Many are also available packaged and dried, providing a long shelf life for eating by themselves or to incorporate into cooking.

Squash, potatoes, onions and other root vegetables like beets and carrots also last for longer periods of time and can be baked, stir-fried or added to soups and other dishes.

In addition, there are also unusual foods that are not of-

ten considered when stocking an emergency pantry such as tempeh, tofu and bean sprouts. These plant-based food products are healthy and lend themselves to a wide range of Asian-based recipes while having extended shelf lives. These are also excellent replacements for meat-based dishes, with numerous recipes available online and in cookbooks for their use.

Many of the foods mentioned here can be dried for even longer-term storage and there are also options available which can

be easily purchased to dry and store these foods.

When stocking up, it is also good to have backups of commonly eaten items like peanut butter, granola bars, instant oatmeal, nuts and trail mix.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has a disaster preparedness page on its website, www.fema.gov, but it is more of a general list of items to have on hand in case of an emergency.

FEMA offers some simple advice when considering which foods to include in your emergency stockpile.

“As you stock food, take into account your family's unique needs and tastes. Familiar foods are important. They lift morale and give a feeling of security in times of stress. Try to include foods that they will enjoy and that are also high in calories and nutrition,” the agency reported.

These can include dairy products, such as sour cream, cheese and milk, that can be used in multiple ways, and desserts that can be doled out as treats.

As of press time, there is an adequate supply of all of the foods mentioned in this article at all three of Florence's larger grocery stores.

But there is one nonfood product that does seem to be in

short supply in many locations, including Florence: toilet paper.

“If you ask me why everyone is grabbing toilet paper, I can't really explain it,” said Tom Sellars, CEO of Sellars Absorbent Materials in Milwaukee, Wisc., which processes paper products. “It's not like we are suddenly using more of it. But the surge in demand could strain the supply chain. Most mills are 24-hour, 7-days-a-week operations already. They are running on fixed capacity. It's not like there's an idle machine that can be cranked up to increase production.”

Georgia Pacific, the maker of Angel Soft and Quilted Northern toilet paper, reported some orders from retailers have nearly doubled in the past two weeks. The company managed to ship out 20 percent more than its normal capacity but was operating at near-capacity previously to the COVID-19 outbreak. Ramping up additional production will take some time.

Consumers should also disinfect all packages and containers that food is sold in and thoroughly clean all surfaces that come in contact with food packaging and grocery bags used to move food from the store into the car and into the house.

Siuslaw News



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THE CHURCH OF JESUS CHRIST OF LATTER-DAY SAINTS

Online Worship Services 11:00 AM Sunday
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Bishop Larry Farnsworth

COMMUNITY BAPTIST CHURCH

4590 Hwy. 101, Across from Fred Meyer — 997-7418
Sunday School, 9:30a.m. – Worship, 10:45
Wed. Prayer - 6:00 p.m. –
Wed. Ministries 1-8 Grade 7 p.m.

CROSS ROAD ASSEMBLY OF GOD

Corner of 10th & Maple –997-3533
We will be live streaming from
Facebook at 10am Sunday morning.
Link to our website
<https://www.florencecrossroadag.org/church-online>
All other platforms will be update after the service.
florencecrossroadag.org
office@florencecrossroadag.org

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH - SBC

1935 25th St. – 997-7660 • Pastor, Ron Allen
Services on Facebook live
Sunday's at 11:00 am
Wednesday's at 6:00 pm
All Bible studies held at the church including
Sunday morning, Thursday Ladies study, and
Children's Programs are suspended.
Blessings on you and your family.

FLORENCE CHRISTIAN CHURCH

2nd & Ivy – 997-2961 –Non-Denominational
Services suspended this week. We will continue
to meet as The Church through our Community
Groups. We are working on options for you and will
communicate that with you soon.

FLORENCE CHURCH OF CHRIST

Pre-Denominational (Romans 16:16)
1833 Tamarack Street
(2 blocks east of Hwy. 101 on 18th St.)
Bible Study: Sunday 10 a.m.; Worship: Sunday 11 a.m.
www.churchofchristflorence.org

FLORENCE CHURCH OF THE NAZARENE

12th and Nopal – 997-9020
Services will be available via YouTube.
Follow the link at <http://florencenaz.church/>

FLORENCE EVANGELICAL CHURCH

1318 Rhododendron Dr. • 541-997-2523
Sunday Service 11am (Children Sunday School)
Mid-Week Activities, all ages.

FLORENCE SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST

4445 Hwy 101 (South of Fred Meyer) – 997-3951
Worship on Saturday 10:30 A.M.
Adult/Children's Sabbath School 9:15 A.M.

FLORENCE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP

87738 Hwy 101 at Heceta Beach Road
All are welcome to explore the answer.
In lieu of our regular service, we will be
videotaping the sermon and have it available from
YouTube (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC1h3s3lhuRKRCXNxbF8H3Nw>).
www.FlorenceUUF.org - (541) 997.2840

FLORENCE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

2nd & Kingwood • (541) 997-6025
Sunday Services: as of 3/13/2020, cancelled for
at least 2 weeks for COVID-19 spread prevention.
Please check back for updates.

FOURSQUARE CHURCH

1624 Highway 101 (next to A&W) — 997-6337
Pastor George Pagel – Something for the entire family.
Sun. Services: 10:45 a.m., Wed. Bible Study 6pm-7pm
Website:florence4square.com

NEW LIFE LUTHERAN CHURCH, E.L.C.A.

21st & Spruce Street – 997-8113
Pastor Rachel Simonson – All are welcome
Church leadership has decided to cancel
all worship services (Wednesdays included)
between now and the end of April.
Sermons are on YouTube at
https://youtu.be/jcTJVWp_6ps.
www.florencenewlife Lutheran.org

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF THE SIUSLAW

3996 N Hwy 101 997-7136
Traditional Worship Service 10:00 a.m. ,
Reverend Greg Wood
Worship services and all group meetings
in the church have been temporarily
suspended at least until the end of March.
Our 10am Sunday worship service will be available
via Zoom using your phone, tablet or computer.
Church members and friends will be called
this week and given phone in/logon information.
You can also call the church office for this
information.
All Welcome. Come as you are.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS)

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