

# Extended benefits reduced based on state's falling unemployment rate

The Oregon Employment Department has announced a reduction in extended benefits as a result of Oregon's falling unemployment rate.

Following a federal determination, Extended Benefits (EB) will be reduced from up to 20 weeks of benefits to up to 13 weeks, beginning Dec. 13, 2020.

"We know the benefit extension has been a critical safety net for many Oregonians, and this reduction in available benefits will be painful," said David Gerstenfeld, acting director of the Oregon Employment Department. "We are calling on our federal elected leaders to help Oregonians

and pass legislation that will allow us to quickly provide benefits to those still facing hardships. We stand ready to implement any new or continued benefit programs as quickly as possible, so that Oregonians are able to make ends meet while the pandemic continues to spread."

Extended Benefits (EB) is a program that extends regular Unemployment Insurance (UI) benefits when a state is at high unemployment. The average unemployment rate is reviewed at the federal level over a three-month period to determine if the state goes into this extension.

If the average unemploy-

ment rate is below 8 percent but above 6.5 percent, then up to 13 weeks of additional benefits are available under EB. If the average unemployment rate is above 8 percent, the number of additional weeks of benefits increases to 20 through High Extended Benefits (HEB).

Because of Oregon's high unemployment rate during the pandemic, the Department began paying up to 20 weeks of HEB on the week ending July 11, 2020.

Claimants receiving benefits under HEB will continue receiving those benefits through the week ending Dec. 12.

Beginning Dec. 13, claim-

ants will see a change to the number of extended benefits they have remaining.

Some examples of what will happen after Dec. 12:

- If the week ending Dec. 12 is your 10th week on EB, you will receive benefits for that week and will have 3 weeks of EB remaining. Starting Dec. 13, you can continue claiming and receiving EB, for a total of 13 weeks.

- If the week ending Dec. 12 is your 13th week of EB, you will receive benefits for that week but will have zero weeks of EB remaining. Starting Dec. 13, you will not receive any more weeks of EB.

- If the week ending Dec.

12 is your 15th week of EB, you will receive benefits for that week but will have zero weeks of EB remaining.

Starting Dec. 13, you will not receive any more weeks of EB.

- If the week ending Dec. 12 is your 1st week of EB, you will receive benefits for that week and will have 12 weeks of EB remaining.

Starting Dec. 13, you can continue claiming and receiving EB, for a total of 13 weeks.

Some Oregonians who have already received 13 weeks of EB may be able to receive Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) benefits for the few weeks remaining before that pro-

gram expires on Dec. 26.

To qualify for PUA, claimants' unemployment must fit one of the CARES Act-listed criteria for being COVID-19 impacted. Oregonians can apply for PUA through the Employment Department's Online Claims System.

The Department will send claimants a letter and an email informing them that their EB benefit amount has been reduced.

Claimants can also check to see how many weeks of EB they have been paid by viewing their claim status in the Online Claims System.

## Toys for Tots to distribute in Cottage Grove Dec. 13

South Lane County Fire and Rescue (SLCFR) is partnering with the U.S. Marines Corps Reserve to host one of four toy distribution sites in Lane County.

Due to COVID-19, this year's distribution will work differently than past events.

Toys for Tots will distribute in Cottage Grove on Sunday, Dec. 13 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Harrison Avenue SLCFR Fire Station. Unlike the metro area sites, no tickets are required for the Cottage Grove distribution.

However, no one will be allowed out of their vehicles to pick out toys as in years past. Once the toys have been received, organizers will not be able to take anything back.

The mission of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program is

to collect new, unwrapped toys during October, November and December each year, and distribute those toys as Christmas gifts to less fortunate children in the community.

The age limit for Lane County kids is 14 years and younger.

Pre-registration is required for the Eugene/Springfield area distribution. After confirming the required paperwork is in order at the car, including proof of residency in Lane County, proof that the child lives with the applicant and proof of the child's age, toys will be bagged for each child.

For specific information about the program, visit [eugene-or.toysfortots.org](http://eugene-or.toysfortots.org) online, call 541-600-4483 or 541-463-7297, email [lanetoysfortots@gmail.com](mailto:lanetoysfortots@gmail.com) or use its Facebook page.

## Territorial Highway construction ends for winter

Construction on Territorial Highway project has wrapped up for the winter and traffic through the construction area is back to two-way travel.

Traffic signals have also been removed.

County staff and the contractor will continue to monitor the project site throughout the winter to ensure the road stays safe to travel. Construction will resume once the weather improves in spring 2021.

The county will continue to share project updates through its project e-newsletter.

The highway project is a result of many years of input and coordination with a community of residents, bicycle riding groups, freight companies and other stakeholders to discuss ways to address safety concerns on the 5.7-mile stretch of rural road.

The four-phase project will widen the road to include six-foot shoulders and 11-foot

vehicle lanes while softening curves in certain areas.

Between the widening and realignment of curves, it is hoped road access and sight distance for all traffic will be greatly improved.

For more information, contact Senior Transportation Planner Becky Taylor at Lane County Public Works by email at [becky.taylor@lanecountyor.gov](mailto:becky.taylor@lanecountyor.gov).

## Local Boy Scouts selling Christmas trees on weekends

Boy Scout Troop 140 will be selling fresh-cut Christmas Trees on weekends only from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. as long as trees last.

The Scouts will be in the Safeway parking lot near the gas station. All proceeds will go to activity and equipment costs for the year.

Scouts will be wearing masks and practicing social distancing while assisting.

## Attorney to speak at Dec. 7 meeting of local caregivers group

Attorney Sean Kelly will be the guest speaker at the Caregivers Meeting being held Dec. 7, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Kelly will talk about wills, trusts, advanced directives and other topics related to caregiving.

Meetings are held at 1200 E.

Quiney St. in Cottage Grove.

It will be a pot luck lunch, with all local caregivers and community members welcome to attend.

## Cottage Grove businesses are open to serve you!

- 5 Flying Monkeys**  
everyday 11am-4pm
- Abraxas**  
Orders through phone and curbside pickup  
Closed
- Ambrose Collectibles**  
Sun-Mon 10am-4pm, Tues-Sat 10am-5pm
- Apple Pie Antiques**  
Tues-Fri 10:30am-5pm
- Axe & Fiddle**  
Take Out  
Tues - Sat; 4-8pm
- Bartolottis**  
Mon-Sat 11am-8pm
- Bookmine**  
Everyday 11am-4pm  
7th street entrance
- Books on Main**  
Mon-Sat 10am-4pm
- Buster's**  
Take out only  
normal hours
- Cardinal Services**  
Available by phone or online only  
Office Closed
- CG Grocery Outlet**  
Mon-Sat 8am-9pm, Sun 9am-8pm
- Christi's Barber Shop**  
Normal hours
- Coast Fork Brewing Pub**  
Growler & take out only (winter 2020 menu)  
Mon-Sat 11am-7pm, Sun 12-4pm
- Coast Fork Feed Store**  
Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 12-4pm

- Community Sharing**  
Delivery available  
Regular hours
- Cottage Grove Sentinel**  
By Appointment 541-942-3325  
x1200  
Mon - Thurs 8:30am - 5pm, Fri 8:30am - 1pm
- Covered Bridge Brewing Group**  
Take out and online orders  
Coffee starts at 7am  
Growlers and food trucks 11am - 6:30pm
- Crafty Mercantile**  
Delivery, curbside, in person  
Mon-Fri 11:30am-5:30pm, Sat 11am-4pm
- Dirt Cheap Copies & Earthlink**  
Mon-Fri 8:30am-4:30pm
- Espresso Barn**  
Mon-Sat 5am-7pm, Sun 6am-6pm
- Flower Basket**  
Curbside pickup & in person  
Mon-Sat 10am-5pm
- Goodwill**  
Everyday 10am - 7pm
- Homestead Furniture**  
Mon-Fri 9:30am-5:30pm, Sat 10am-3pm & by appointment
- Jack Sprats**  
Take out only with online menu  
Everyday 9am-8pm
- Kalapuya Books**  
[bookshop.org/shop/kalapuyabooks](http://bookshop.org/shop/kalapuyabooks)  
Tues-Sat 11:30am-5:30pm
- KNND**  
Access to our facility is limited to a four hour window in the afternoons from 2-6pm.  
Providing news, information, entertainment, and great music 24/7.

- McCoys Pharmacy**  
In store and drive thru  
Regular hours
- OBA Ramen**  
Take out and Delivery  
Sun - Thurs 11am-8pm Fri - Sat 11am-9pm
- Oregon Aviation Historical Society**  
Gifts available online  
Closed
- Payne West Insurance**  
By phone only - Bank Building open to tenants only  
Darla Avery 541-767-1622 office, 541-912-9148 Cell.  
Tiffanie 541-942-0555 or 541-767-1623
- Rainy Peak Bicycles**  
Wed-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat 10am-5pm
- Rosebud Consignment**  
Mon-Sat 11am-4pm
- Rural Organizing Project**  
Normal hours  
food/supply distribution Tues/Thurs
- Sanity Chocolate**  
Online orders: [sanitychocolate.com](http://sanitychocolate.com)  
Pick up Saturday 11am-3pm
- Shampoo Dolls**  
Normal hours
- Smith Lund Mills Funeral Chapel**  
On call 24/7  
Mon - Fri 8:30am - 5pm
- St. Andrews Episcopal Church**  
limit of 25  
Sundays at 10:30am
- Stacy's Covered Bridge**  
Tues-Sat 3-8pm take out only  
new online menu
- T & K Creations**  
In person, no classes  
Mon-Fri 10am-7pm, Sat 10am-3pm
- Tattoo Nouvelle**  
everyday 11am-6pm

# PUT LOCAL BUSINESSES

at the Top of Your List!

- TBS Consultants**  
24/7/365  
We still do business or home on-site visits if needed.
- Territorial Seed Company**  
Online and Phone orders only  
Shipping available  
Store Closed 11/22/2020 - 1/12/2021
- The Health Hub**  
Closed in person class/trainings until Dec 5, online class via Google Meet  
email [healthhubcottagegrove@gmail.com](mailto:healthhubcottagegrove@gmail.com)
- The UPS Store**  
Call for Notary or passport photo appointment  
Mon - Fri 9am - 6pm  
Saturday 10am - 5pm
- The Village Green**  
Hotel-open as usual  
Food via take-out from 3-9pm daily



**Len Blackstone**  
By phone only - Bank Building open to tenants only  
"Bank Building Offices & Windermere Real Estate  
Chalice Savage, 541.942.3870 Len Blackstone, 541.501.5396

