

Coronavirus: Some encouraging news comes out

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 courage visitors from coming here for recreation. Beaches north of the Necanicum River in Seaside remain open to walkers.

Fort Stevens and Ecola state parks remain closed, as are state-managed parking lots and beach accesses. The beach at Seaside is closed to all users. The beach access road in Gearhart is closed.

Cullaby Lake and Carnahan county parks are closed, but other county parks remain open. The boat ramp at John Day County Park is open, although the restrooms are closed.

LODGING REMAINS CLOSED
 County commissioners extended their emergency order, which initially closed short-term lodging businesses and campgrounds until March 23. The new order goes through April 30, which coincides with the federal government's stay-in-place guidelines.

SOME FUNDS DISTRIBUTED
 The Oregon Employment Department started issuing relief fund payments April 10 from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

Those eligible for regular unemployment insurance and those eligible for federal pandemic unemployment compensation will receive two weekly payments, one for regular unemployment benefits and an additional \$600 for each week someone is eligible from March 29 through July 25.

The federal pandemic benefits allow the self-employed, contract workers, and those not already eligible to receive unemployment benefits to get them for the first time.

OUT-OF-STATE HUNTERS
 Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife closed recreational hunting, fishing, crabbing and clamming to



Courtesy OANG

Oregon Army National Guard members deliver personal protection supplies to Columbia County.

nonresidents.

While seasons remain open to Oregon residents (except for Columbia River salmon/steelhead fishing), resident hunters and anglers should not be traveling to participate. The agency has received

complaints from rural communities about people visiting to hunt and fish and placing additional burdens on their limited resources.

COMPLIANCE CHECKS

Oregon Occupational Safety and Health has begun con-

ducting spot checks to verify employers are complying with closure or distancing requirements.

The spot checks, which are in addition to more time-intensive, on-site inspections initiated by the division, are to confirm whether employers are doing what they're telling the division they're doing in response to complaints.

OSHA received more than 1,200 complaints the week of March 23, when the governor ordered some businesses to close to stop the spread of coronavirus.

SELF-SERVE GAS

The State Fire Marshal's Office has extended a temporary order allowing self-serve gas. Initially the order was to expire April 11. The

order has been extended through April 25.

OTHER SNIPPETS

- Spring term at Clatsop Community College is in full swing with all students taking online classes, according to Stephanie Homer, special projects and compliance coordinator.

- The demand for food assistance has risen 65 percent in Clatsop County, according to Viviana Matthews, deputy director of Clatsop Community Action, which runs the county's food bank.

- Columbia Memorial Hospital has lost nearly 50 percent of its revenue since elective surgeries were cancelled, a representative said during a teleconference of the North Coast Regional Economic Recovery Team.

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