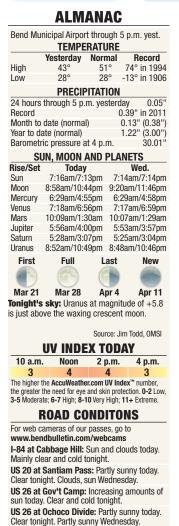
28°

**MONDAY** 

Chance for a couple of

showers



**ORE 58 at Willamette Pass:** Partly sunny today. Clear and seasonably cold tonight. Partly cloudy Wednesday.

ORE 138 at Diamond Lake: Clouds and sun

SKI REPORT

In inches as of 5 p.m. vesterday

New snow

Base

0-81

0-96

62-68

0-213

65-90

0-173

65-100

52-69

0-65 55-77

105-123

today. Partly cloudy tonight.

Ski resort

Mt. Ashland

Mt Bachelor

Anthony Lakes Mtn

Mt. Hood Meadows

Mt. Hood Ski Bowl

Timberline Lodge

Squaw Valley, CA

Sun Valley, ID

Aspen / Snowmass, CO

Mammoth Mtn. Ski. CA

Park City Mountain, U7

Willamette Pass

Hoodoo Ski Area



46/37/0.19

45/34/0.06

41/33/0.05

55/32/pc

48/33/pc

62/43/c

51/41/pc 54/44/pc

Prineville

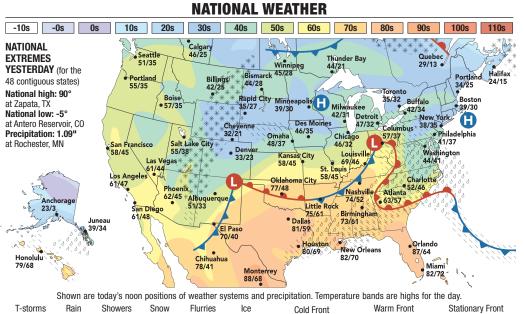
45/29/0.04

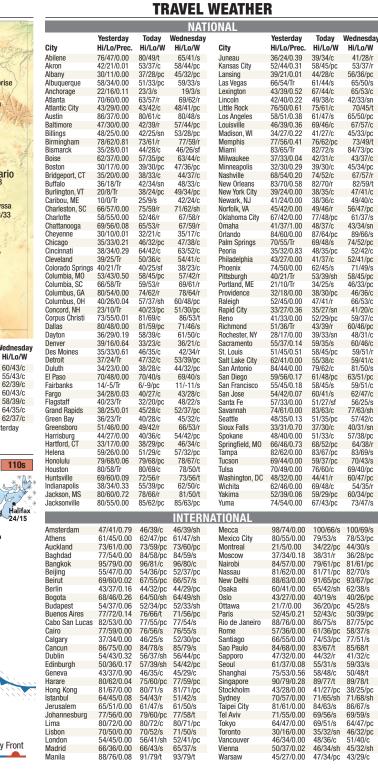
48/36/0.26

-ice, Tr-trace, Yesterday data as of 5 p.m. yesterday

51/25/pc

55/33/pc





## Travel

**Continued from A11** 

Parker said American's bookings are now running just 20% below 2019 levels. A factor appears to be traveler confidence now that more people are getting vaccinated against COVID-19. About 70 million Americans, or 21%, have remillion have completed their vaccination, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Delta Air Lines CEO Ed Bastian said Monday that bookings began picking up five or six weeks ago.

Since the pandemic hit, air travel has picked up a few times — mostly around holidays — only to drop back down. This time, the recovery "seems like it's real," Bastian said during the same J.P. Morgan investor conference at which Parker spoke.

United Airlines CEO Scott Kirby said his airline will generate "core" cash instead of burning cash for March, and he expects the positive trend to continue in the months ahead.

Southwest Airlines CEO Gary Kelly said during a Washington Post webcast that his airline could break even by June, "where you have had much of

the population vaccinated." Southwest said in a regulatory filing that March and April will be better than expected as passenger traffic and fares rise. The airline said people are booking leisure trips to beach and mountain destinations, but business travel is still lagging.

## Sams

1 C C C F F F

**Continued from A11** 

50/37/0.02

40/34/0.08

ther(W): s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-s

51/38/pc

51/26/p

51/45/c

56/35/0

59/40/0

\*

Medford

He was surprised when Brown offered him a seat on the council. The pair had talked about appointments to other bodies in the past, but the Northwest Power and Conservation Council wasn't one of them.

But for Sams, 50, the offer had appeal.

Between stints in tribal government, Sams was the director for several energy and environmentally focused nonprofits, including the Columbia Slough Watershed Council, the Earth Conservation Corps and the Community Energy Project.

Sams, an enrolled member of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, climbed the ladder in tribal government after returning home in 2012, culminating in a second stint as interim executive director in late 2020. Despite the opportunity, Sams quickly told the board that he would not consider the job on a permanent basis.

Established in 1980, the

Northwest Power and Conservation Council is responsible for devising long-term planning for the Columbia Basin, taking both energy and conservation needs into account. Sams is joining an eight-person council with representation from Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana. A full-time job, each council mber earns \$120,000 per

Sams said he will become the only enrolled tribal member on the board and only the second American Indian in the council's 30-year history.

The Umatilla Tribes have often joined the other tribes of the Columbia Plateau in trying to protect the river's salmon from the adverse effects of the river's hydroelectric system.

When asked for comment, the governor's office mentioned their work in appointing him to the council and recommending him to a job with national implications.

The governor counts herself as one of the many Oregonians who has learned so much from him about the



Kathy Aney/East Oregonian file

Chuck Sams, then the communications director for the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, gives local high school athletes some insight on tribal history and beliefs in 2018.

history and cultures of the Indigenous and Tribal peoples who have lived in Oregon since time immemorial," said Charles Boyle, a spokesman for Brown. "In December, she wrote a letter recommending him to lead the National Park Service, and she is extremely pleased for his commitment to now serve on the" council.

Addressed to then President-elect Joe Biden, Brown's letter ran through Sams' qualifications and qualities before sharing her vision for the National Parks Service under

Sams' leadership. If appointed to the position, Sams would be the service's first full-time director since the Obama administration. Former President Donald Trump nominated a candidate, but he was never confirmed by the Senate, and the agency has been overseen by a series of acting directors for

the past four years. Sams said he was honored by Brown's recommendation, but he added that he will also be pleased to stay in the Northwest and serve on the council if he doesn't get the parks director position.

Although the council's offices are in Portland, Sams said he intends to stay at his residence on the Uma dian Reservation and work remotely.

Sams' last day in tribal government came on Friday, March 12, and he left with some warm words from one of his former bosses.

"I can't thank Chuck enough for his service to the Tribe," Kat Brigham, chair of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation board, said in a statement. "We are sad to see him go, but happy that he has received such a prestigious appointment from Gov. Brown. We know that he will work for the benefit of the entire region. We wish him nothing but the

Oregon Capital Bureau reporter Gary A. Warner contributed to this report.

## **Exports**

Continued from A11

Ships are routinely delayed or canceled outright, often with little time for exporters to make alternative arrangements.

Those delays create additional and expensive backlogs at processing plants and packing sheds. And things are about to get worse as exporters who haven't sold all of last year's crop now brace for this year's harvest.

In a few months, for example, hay farmers in the Pacific Northwest will start cutting the first crops of 2021, "and

we've still got a lot of last year's crop that needs to be moving," says Ellensburg hay exporter Mark Anderson. His, company, Anderson Hay, normally sells 90% of its product to foreign buyers, but now struggles to find cargo space.

"It's become, really, a complete supply chain meltdown on the Pacific Ocean," said Anderson, who worries that some customers may switch to Australian hay.

Trade economists and policymakers expect the capacity shortages to fade as the pandemic ends and normal consumer patterns return. But many exporters fear that by

then, they may have permanently lost some market share.

"My biggest worry is that suddenly what seemed like a blip in exports and a temporary problem becomes, well, now China is going elsewhere for their apples and their cherries and their hay," says Rep. Kim Schrier, D-Sammamish.

## **Fraud**

**Continued from A11** 

Claypool, the company's general manager at the time, called the misbranding scheme "getting creative" and used it to defraud customers of \$1 million, according to Assistant U.S. Attorney Ryan Bounds.

In a separate pyramid fraud, Claypool directed an accomplice to create a limited liability corporation called Green Pyramid LLC to pose as an independent grass seed broker, according to Bounds.

That was necessary because Claypool was responsible for negotiating much of Jacklin's grass seed sales overseas, generating millions of dollars in orders for the company, but he was a salaried employee and didn't receive commissions for the orders.

Claypool and a colleague conspired to route a portion of Jacklin's overseas sales through a competing grass-seed seller, ProSeeds Marketing Inc., based in Jefferson, Öregon, the prosecutor said.

Claypool would negotiate for Jacklin through ProSeeds, which would add its own mark-up to the sales and kick back outsized commissions to Claypool through the Green Pyramid corporation, according to Bounds.

Claypool also generated commissions from ProSeeds by having Green Pyramid purport to broker bogus sales of Jacklin's own seeds back to Jacklin at a mark-up, according to court papers.

From December 2018 through August 2019, Claypool generated more than \$369,000 in fraudulent commissions, according to Bounds.

The prosecutor described Claypool's most lucrative fraud as the Hawaiian properties scheme.

Claypool was responsible for international sales and had authority to approve payment of commissions to foreign industry partners that facilitated

Claypool, along with a Jack-

lin employee based in China and the employee's wife, conspired to embezzle more than \$12 million in commissions transmitted to bank accounts in Hong Kong and elsewhere of bogus entities posing as foreign sales partners, according to Bounds.

They laundered the money through multiple wire transfers from foreign banks to U.S. banks for investments in Hawaiian real estate for Claypool's

benefit, the prosecutor said. Claypool used the money to make investments in four real estate properties in Hawaii under his control. Claypool sold one house for \$4.8 million, another for \$6.4 million, according to Bounds. Claypool netted \$9.5 million through the fraudulent real estate investments, Bounds said.

In the final scheme, Claypool pleaded guilty to conspiring with the owner of an independent travel agency in Spokane to inflate the purported costs of his international business travel.