

Fed

Continued from A11

"We are a ways away from substantial further progress, we think," Powell said Wednesday. "But we are making progress."

For the same reason, the chairman said, it's too early for Fed officials to discuss when they might raise their benchmark short-term rate from its record low near zero. But he did note that many of the policy-makers think the central bank's goals "will be met somewhat sooner than previously projected."

In his remarks, Powell drew a mostly positive picture of the economy. The inflation spikes of the past two months, he said, will likely prove temporary, and hiring should accelerate through summer and into the fall as COVID-19 recedes further with

increased vaccinations, schools and day care centers reopen, which will allow more parents to work, and supplemental federal aid for the jobless ends.

"There is every reason," Powell said, "to think that we will be in a labor market with very attractive numbers, with low unemployment, high participation and rising wages across the spectrum."

The central bank raised its forecast for inflation to 3.4% by the end of this year, from 2.4% in its previous projection in March. Yet the officials foresee price increases remaining tame in the following two years.

Fed officials expect the economy to grow 7% this year, which would be the fastest calendar-year expansion since 1984. They project that growth will slow after that, to 3.3% in 2022 and 2.4% in 2023.

Hops

Continued from A11

According to a U.S. Department of Agriculture report issued June 10, Washington has 60,735 acres of hops strung for harvest, an increase of 2,094 acres over last year. Idaho has 9,784 acres of hops this year, up 516, and Oregon has 7,571 acres, up 467.

The total of 60,735 acres is a record high, though Brophy said some of those additions are the result of pre-pandemic planning, and not new business.

"A lot of this is based on past demand," she said. "The sentiment and estimate at this point is the increases aren't necessarily from recent contracts, but fulfilling ones that were previously established."

Michelle Palacios, administrator of the Oregon Hops Commission, said acreage is up in 2021 based on baby hops that were strung last year but did not produce a crop.

Unlike Washington and Idaho, it takes Oregon growers two years to harvest new hop plants based on the climate. Those acres are not included in the USDA's annual report.

Palacios said more growers in Oregon are transitioning their

acreage from alpha hop varieties such as Nugget to more aroma varieties like Citra and Centennial, driven by increased demand among craft brewers.

"Our (increased) acres was absolutely anticipated because of this variety transition that we're going through," Palacios said. "These acres were in the ground in 2020, but we just didn't get to harvest them."

Craft brewing has been the primary catalyst for the growth in hop acres, Brophy said. Brewers use more hops per glass in beers such as pale ales that are rising in popularity worldwide. About 98% of the U.S. hop crop comes from the Pacific Northwest.

While hop acreage was up in 2020 over 2019, production fell to 104.8 million pounds, according to Hop Growers of America.

Brophy said the reason was twofold. First, growers did idle some acres to account for the pandemic's disruption of bars and restaurants. Mother Nature was the other culprit, with wind and smoke reducing Washington's yield by 12.56%, and Idaho's by 8.8%.

"People are estimating in the hops industry that it was probably down about 10%, give or take," Brophy said.

Housing

Continued from A11

"The latest data confirm two things — emergency rental assistance is very slow to reach renters in need, and millions of renters remain behind on rent and at heightened risk of evictions," Diane Yentel, president of the National Low-Income Housing Coalition, said in an email interview.

The reports by Harvard University and the National Association of Realtors come from different perspectives, but ultimately reach the same conclusion: the United States isn't building enough housing to address population growth, causing record low home availability, and rising home prices are putting homeownership out of reach of millions of Americans.

Without substantial changes in homebuilding and home affordability, both reports say, the result will be a more-or-less permanent class of renters contrasted with what will likely be a mostly white class of homeowners. While these problems were known before the coronavirus pandemic, the economic impact of the pandemic exacerbated the problem, the reports say.

A separate study commissioned by the National Association of Realtors found



A homeowner tours his new home in Washingtonville, New York, in July. Two studies released Wednesday found that the nation's housing availability and affordability crisis is expected to worsen significantly following the pandemic.

John Minchillo/A

Help available in Oregon

Oregon's moratorium on residential evictions is set to expire June 30. Oregon renters have until Feb. 28, 2022, to repay overdue rent accumulated between April 2020 and this month. But there are currently no protections for renters who can't pay their rent in July and beyond.

The state has \$204 million in federal rental assistance available for struggling renters through its new Oregon Emergency Rental Assistance Program, but the community agencies charged with distributing the money won't be able to get much into the hands of landlords on behalf of tenants

before July 1.

Help may be found at oregonrentalassistance.org or oerap.oregon.gov.

Landlords can apply for assistance to cover 80% of their tenants' past-due rent through the Landlord Compensation Fund at lcf.oregon.gov. Applications for the landlord compensation fund will close Friday. Landlords who accept assistance through the fund will have to forgive the other 20% of their tenants' unpaid rent.

—The Oregonian

that the U.S. housing market needs to build at least 5.5 million new units to keep up with demand and keeping homeownership affordable over the next 10 years. That's on top of the roughly 1.2 million units built per year on average, or a roughly 60% increase in home construction

for the next decade, just to keep up with demand.

"The scale of underbuilding and the existing demand-supply gap is enormous and will require a major national commitment to build more housing of all types by expanding resources, addressing barriers to new devel-

opment and making new housing construction an integral part of a national infrastructure strategy," wrote Kenneth Rosen, David Bank, Max Hall, Scott Reed and Carson Goldman with the Rosen Consulting Group, in its report to the Realtors association.

Crater Lake

Continued from A11

Workspaces and other parts of visitor center operations, such as the Crater Lake Natural History Association sales area, are being moved to temporary sites in the park.

Concession facilities, including the Annie Creek gift shop/restaurant, Mazama Campground and Rim Village Gift shop/restaurant, are open, with some reduced food service options.

The Mazama Cabins are already booked for the entire season. The Annie Creek

restaurant has some indoor seating and an outdoor patio. The Mazama Campground, which could open within days, will be on a reservation system beginning July 1.

The historic Crater Lake Lodge is open but, like in 2020, the restaurant and great hall are open only to lodge guests.

Visitors should be prepared for potentially long lines to get into the park and finding parking in the Rim Village area. Additional parking will again be available at Picnic Hill, the former campground at Rim Village.

Ackerman said there are

no plans to require reservations to enter the park, something that is being tried at other national parks. Long-term plans include upgrading and possibly adding booths at both the north and south entrance stations.

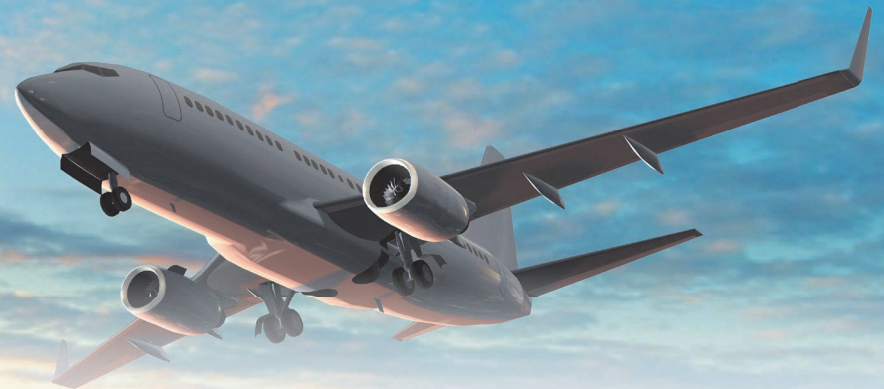
Park staff will again be stationed at the Rim Drive trailhead to prevent people from taking illegal items that could harm the lake's purity, such as flotation devices, to the lake.

"We learned very quickly how to manage that," Ackerman said, referring to staffing the trailhead with rangers last summer.

He expressed disappointment with having to cancel the always-popular lake boat tours and the increasingly popular Crater Lake trolley tours, noting, "a lot of people have been calling and asking if the trolley tours are going to be offered."

According to Ackerman, "It's going to be a COVID-impacted summer."

For updated information visit the Crater Lake Hospitality website at www.travelcraterlake.com. Other park-related information is available at www.craterlakecountry.com.



JOB FAIR!

Join us this **Friday June 18th, 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm** and **Saturday June 19th, 9:00 am - Noon**
Located at **Sleep Inn 1847 NW 6th St Redmond, OR 87758**



Jobs available in Aerospace:

TIG Welding, Metal Finishing, Dimensional and Visual Inspecting, Engineering and many more!

If you have the skills it takes to succeed in the Aerospace Industry and you are willing to relocate to the Mid-Willamette Valley, we would love to hear from you!

Relocation assistance available!

For more information, please apply online or contact ALB-Recruiting@cppcorp.com or call us at **541-967-4893**

Apply at www.cppcorp.com and select CAREERS