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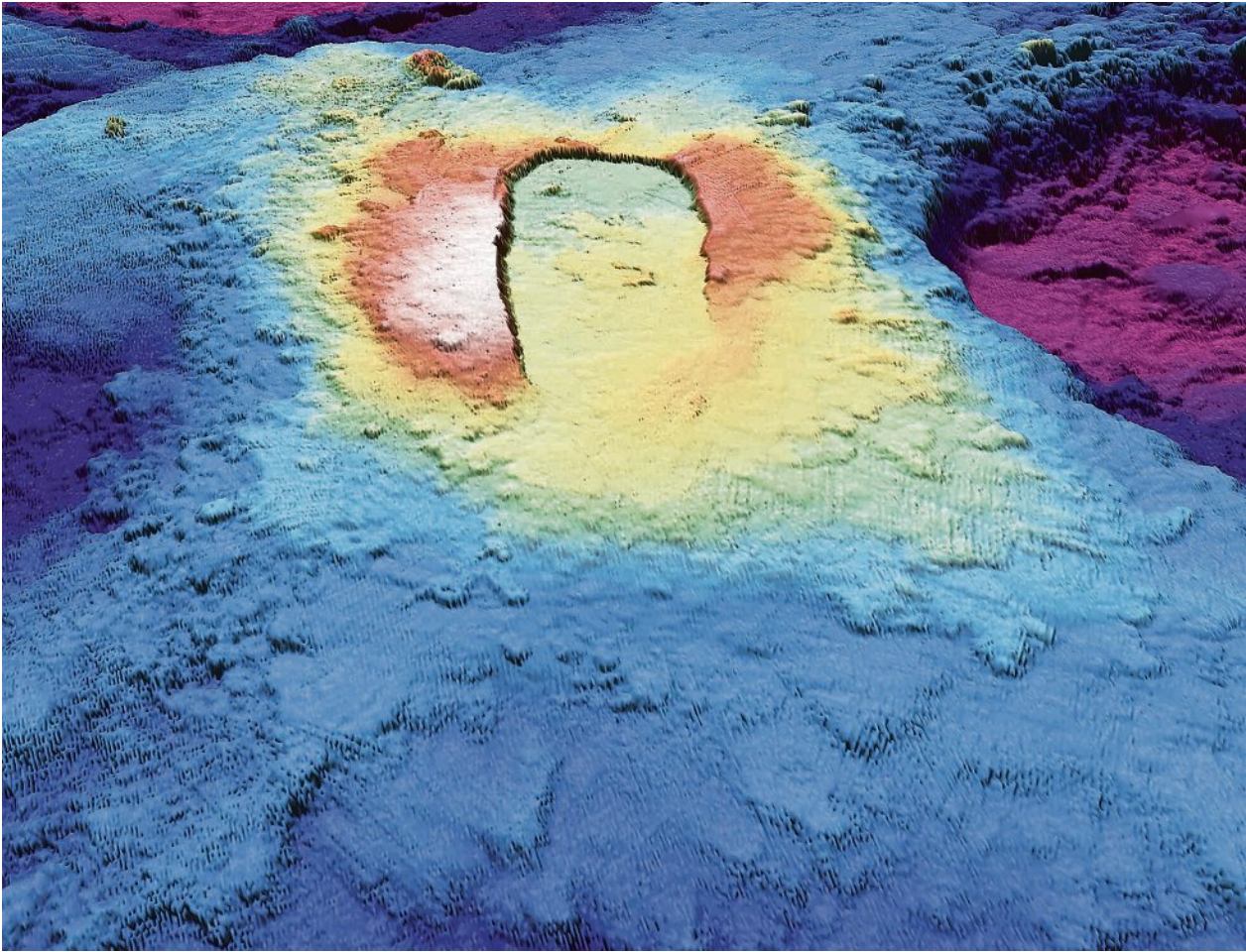
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Statesman Journal

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A 3D bathymetric map showing the shape and summit caldera of the Axial seamount, 300 miles off Oregon's coast. Warm colors indicate shallower depths, cool colors are deeper.

SUSAN MERLE/OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY

Underwater volcano off coast predicted to erupt in 2026

Ginnie Sandoval Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

An active underwater volcano off the Oregon Coast that was predicted to erupt in 2025 is now expected to erupt mid-to-late 2026. ● The Axial Seamount volcano is located nearly a mile beneath the sea, approximately 300 miles off the Oregon Coast, just west of Astoria and along the Juan de Fuca Ridge in the Pacific Ocean. ● The underwater volcano has experienced around 50 eruptions during the last 800 years. It has had three eruptions in the last 30 years, happening in 1998, 2011 and 2015.

The volcanic activity coming from Axial Seamount in 2025 had scientists predicting an impending eruption. However, recent research and changes in volcanic activity now have scientists predicting it will erupt sometime in 2026.

Oregon State University researchers recently announced they will be conducting a new experiment using the Axial Seamount to better understand changing volcanic activity and to more accurately predict volcanic eruptions.

Here's what to know.

Why do researchers believe an underwater volcano off the Oregon Coast will erupt in 2026?

Researchers at OSU's Hatfield Marine Science Center have been continuously monitoring the Axial Seamount's activity in real time by using the Regional Cabled Array,

an ocean observatory that uses approximately 660 miles of undersea cables to constantly monitor activity with more than 140 instruments.

Bill Chadwick, a volcanologist and research professor at OSU, said their observations have revealed a pattern, and that the inflation threshold is close to where it erupted in 2015.

As 2025 comes to a close, while the inflation of Axial Seamount has reportedly been steady, the rate of seismicity has been relatively low, meaning "nothing is imminent," according to an Oct. 27 OSU College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences blog written by Chadwick and the University of North Carolina's Scott Nooner.

"At the current rate of inflation, we won't get to that higher inflation threshold until mid-to-late 2026," they wrote.

See VOLCANO, Page 2A

Advocates report man hospitalized after ICE arrest

Dianne Lugo

Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

One man in Salem was sent to the hospital Dec. 7 after U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents attempted to arrest him, according to the coalition Oregon for All.

A video posted on social media shows four masked agents dragging a man in handcuffs toward the back of a white Ford SUV at the parking lot of the Salem Mega Foods around 10 a.m. Another masked agent stands nearby.

An image shared by the coalition shows the shattered window of a car they said belonged to the man, identified in a GoFundMe as Albino Mora Navarro.

Other videos later show Navarro being tended to by first responders.

It was not immediately clear how Navarro was injured. He was transported to Salem Health hospital.

His wife, Philona Mora, said Navarro works at a restaurant near the Mega Foods. Mora said she has not been told what prompted ICE agents to detain Navarro. The two have a 5-year-old child, she said.

Oregon for All said the man lived in the United States for nearly 20 years.

Federal agents were observed in the hospital parking lot for hours. Volunteers later said they observed

See ICE ARREST, Page 2A

Historic central Oregon post office is being turned into a hotel

Ginnie Sandoval

Salem Statesman Journal | USA TODAY NETWORK

A 93-year-old former post office in Bend has been repurposed into a luxury hotel and is now taking reservations.

Bend's historic Old Post Office will be reopening as The Westman Boutique Hotel downtown and is set to begin accepting guests Dec. 19, though that date is now booked.

The Old Post Office was built in 1932 and was one of the town's first buildings to feature reinforced concrete, boasting architectural details that were well known during the 1930s. It was purchased by Deschutes Opportunity Commercial Development LLC in 2020, and construction began shortly after to repurpose the building into The Westman Boutique Hotel.

To preserve the history of Bend's Old Post Office, much of the building's original architecture was kept during construction.

The hotel was also named after Minnie Westman, Oregon's first woman postman, who delivered mail and parcels through the state's rugged terrain during the late 1800s.

See HOTEL, Page 2A



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