



The market won't wait.
And neither should you.

Buying or selling? Don't wait—
make your move now.

Discover more at addressUSA.com

My dream home...

Help me sell fast...

Statesman Journal

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 2026 | STATESMANJOURNAL.COM

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

CRATER LAKE



A dying whitebark pine is shown in Crater Lake National Park. The National Park Service is planting disease-resistant varieties to replace the trees that are dying from whitepine blister rust disease.

AMELIA TEMPLETON/OPB

How scientists are solving problem of dying trees

Cassandra Profta

Oregon Public Broadcasting

In 2002, Crater Lake National Park ecologist Michael Murray thought the park's majestic whitebark pine trees were as good as gone.

An invasive fungus called white pine blister rust was killing the rugged, long-needle pines that line the rim of Mount Mazama's crater and frame its gleaming blue lake. And there was nothing he could do to stop it.

"The way I see it now, the extinction of whitebark pine in the park is imminent," he told OPB's "Oregon Field Guide" back then. "I expect us to lose about 90% of the whitebark pine in this park — at least."

The blister rust fungus was accidentally introduced to the U.S. in a shipment of infected nursery trees from Europe around 1900. Since then, it's wiped out millions of whitebark pine trees across the western U.S. and threatened the survival of the species.

But Oregon scientist Richard Sniezko saw a way to save these trees from extinction using a method that can also help protect other species.

A geneticist with the U.S. Forest Service, Sniezko told Murray there might be some whitebark pine trees with natural resistance to the blister rust disease. He had already found genetic resistance to blister rust in other pine trees through his work with the Dorena Genetic Resource Center in Cottage Grove.

"At that point in time, back in the early 2000s, very little was known about resistance in whitebark pine," Sniezko said. "It was expected to be one of — if not the most susceptible of our white pine species."

If scientists found genetic resistance in existing trees, the seeds from those trees could be used to grow and plant a future forest that wouldn't be wiped out by blister rust. And Crater Lake's whitebark pine trees could survive.

In 2002, Murray and Sniezko started collecting cones from whitebark pine trees at Crater Lake National Park and testing them at the Dorena lab for resistance to blister rust infection.



One of six sites at Crater Lake National Park where blister rust resistant whitebark pine trees have been planted to replace the trees that are dying from the invasive fungus. The first resistant trees were planted here in 2009. PROVIDED BY RICHARD SNEZKO

Decades later, hundreds of trees across Oregon and Washington have been identified as having natural resistance to blister rust. Thousands of their seedlings have been planted at Crater Lake — and across the region.

Whitebark pine was listed as a threatened species in 2022, and the trees are still in decline. Other threats still loom for them — like the mountain pine beetle — especially in a warming climate with declining snowpack.

But thanks to decades of trial-and-error genetics work, they're no longer facing imminent extinction, at Crater Lake National Park or across the Northwest.

"Blister rust in many areas will be more a minor nuisance rather than a major problem that threatens the existence of the species," Sniezko said. "It's

See CRATER LAKE, Page 2A

High-tech farming offers new careers

Suzanne Wright

USA TODAY NETWORK

Agriculture is one of humanity's oldest professions. In the United States, it accounted for 10% of total jobs in 2024 according to USDA data. But technology is rapidly reshaping agricultural employment.

"Farming used to be all about horsepower. Now it's just as much about computing power," said Justin Rose, president of John Deere's worldwide agriculture and turf division, small agriculture and turf care. And that means hiring people who understand both soil and software.

"A lot of people still picture farming as purely mechanical — big machines, dusty fields, long days," Rose said. "But today, we're building artificial intelligence systems that can literally see what's growing in the field and make split-second decisions about what needs attention."

Daniel Burrus, technology futurist and head of Burrus Research, is also bullish on the sector.

"We're no longer guessing about the future," he said. "The data is there, and when we combine it with human ingenuity, we can pre-solve problems before they happen. The next generation is using technology as a tool for stewardship of the land, the water and the communities that depend on agriculture."

And that's attracting talent. "The narrative that agricultural careers are limited to field work is outdated," said Elaine Millar, associate vice president of research at Gray Decision

See FARMING, Page 2A

New movie from horror icon set in fictional Oregon town

Ginnie Sandoval

Salem Statesman Journal

USA TODAY NETWORK

Bruce Campbell may be best known for chainsaws and chaos, but his latest film "Ernie & Emma," leans into something more real.

"It's almost like you have to have this disclaimer of, 'Warning: No chainsaws! Danger: No blood!'" Campbell said.

The actor is widely known for his cult-favorite role as Ash in the Evil Dead franchise and his frequent collaborations with director Sami Raimi.

For his latest venture, Campbell wrote, produced, directed and starred in "Ernie & Emma," a project he completed in southern Oregon with the help of his wife, Ida Gearon.

The story follows Ernie Tyler, a former small-town pear salesman in the fictional town of Pear Valley, Oregon, as he navigates grief, memories and the possibility of moving forward after the death of his wife. It is a departure from the high-energy, horror-driven roles Campbell is known for.

The movie premiered Feb. 14 at Medford's historic Holly Theatre and is set for another screening April 4 at Portland's Hollywood Theatre.

Campbell spoke with the Statesman Journal ahead of the film's latest screening. He touched on the creative process, the movie's theme and his

See CAMPBELL, Page 3A

Acura of Salem
503.588.5000
acuraofsalem.com



ACURA



2026 INTEGRA
SPRING INTO PERFORMANCE

LEASE FOR
\$329 PER MO.
FOR 36 MONTHS
\$3,099 Due at Signing.
Loyalty/Conquest lease.

Includes down payment with no security deposit. Excludes taxes, title, license and documentary service fees. For well-qualified lessees who currently own a 2011 or newer Acura, Audi, BMW, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Genesis, GMC, Honda, Hyundai, Infiniti, Jeep, Kia, Lexus, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Ram, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen or Volvo vehicle. Excludes residents of IL. Subject to availability through April 30, 2026 on approved credit through Acura Financial Services. Closed-end lease for 2026 Integra FWD Continuously Variable Transmission vehicles (DE4H27W). Lease offer only available to qualified current owners of a 2011 or newer Acura, Audi, BMW, Buick, Cadillac, Chevrolet, Chrysler, Dodge, Ford, Genesis, GMC, Honda, Hyundai, Infiniti, Jeep, Kia, Lexus, Mazda, Mercedes-Benz, Nissan, Ram, Subaru, Toyota, Volkswagen or Volvo vehicle. Not all lessees will qualify. Higher lease rates apply for lessees with lower credit ratings. Lease offers vary based on MSRP. MSRP \$34,495.00 (includes destination, excludes taxes, title, license and documentary service fees). Actual net capitalized cost \$29,198.54. Net capitalized cost includes \$595 acquisition fee. Dealer contribution may vary and could affect actual lease payment. Total monthly payments \$11,844.00. Option to purchase at lease end \$21,510.00. Dealers set actual price. Must take new retail delivery of vehicle from dealer stock by April 30, 2026. Monthly payment and total due at lease signing calculated with \$2,000 towards the capitalized cost reduction. Lessee responsible for maintenance, excessive wear/tear and up to 20¢/mile over 10,000 miles/year. Not all customers qualify for Loyalty/Conquest offer. See your participating Acura dealer for complete details. Offer ends 04/30/2026.

Subscriber-only eNewspaper

The eNewspaper is an electronic copy of your print newspaper. Enjoy every page by going to statesmanjournal.com/enewspaper or scan this code on your mobile device. You will also find late news and sports in the bonus sections. Check it out today!



Volume 174 | No. 290
Subscribe 800-452-2511
©2026 \$3.00

