

FOREST

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than ponderosa pine and western larch, which means the zone's stands are much more vulnerable than they were at least 180 years ago.

Ponderosa pine and western larch no longer grow in the zone in great numbers because the other species are outcompeting them for space. One reason is ponderosa pine and western larch are not shade tolerant. This means young ponderosa pine and western larch do not do well when growing under larger Douglas fir, lodgepole pine and grand fir.

The Sheep Creek project plan calls for controlled burns, logging and noncommercial thinning to create space for ponderosa pine and western larch.

The situation is similar in other zones of the Sheep Creek area, where the best suited trees are now hard to find after being lost to disturbances and losing the competition for space to other trees not as well suited for the environment. Glick said treatments of prescribed burning, commercial logging and noncommercial thinning will allow species of trees best suited for the zone to reestablish.

"We want to promote and maintain the forest composition, which was there before the disturbances," Glick said.

Large ponderosa pine stumps in the lower mountain zone and old photos are among the evidence the Forest Service used to determine the original composition of the Sheep Creek zones.

The Forest Service's proposed Sheep Creek treatments call for about 3,000 acres of commercial timber harvest and 9,000 acres of non-commercial thinning, including follow-up treatments, such as post-harvest understory removal, piling and burning.

In addition, 9,500 acres of prescribed burning of natural fuels is proposed across 12 burn blocks.

Additional information on the project is available at www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=57625 or by contacting District Ranger Bill Gamble at 541-962-8582 or email bill.gamble@usda.gov.

The Forest Service now is accepting written comments



Photo contributed by the U.S. Forest Service

Large ponderosa pine trees once dominated the lower mountain zone in the Sheep Creek area near Starkey. U.S. Forest Service's La Grande Ranger District is proposing a project to restore ponderosa pine and western larch to the 30,000-acre Sheep Creek area. The trees are more fire and drought resistant than the tree species that have taken over the area.

"We want to promote and maintain the forest composition, which was there before there were disturbances."

— Lucas Glick, a silviculturist with the La Grande Ranger District

on the proposed Sheep Creek Vegetation Management Project. Comments can be sent via email to comments-pacificnorthwest-wallowa-whitman-lagrande@usda.gov, or hard copies can be mailed to Bill Gamble, District Ranger, La Grande Ranger District, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande 97850.

Those who have concerns about the plan must submit their comments by March 16 if they want their comments to be taken into consideration for possible revisions to the current draft of the plan. A revised draft of the plan will be released later by the Forest Service, after which people will have 30 days to submit written comments.

The current draft of the propose a Sheep Creek Vegetation Management Project is available for review at the La Grande Ranger District office, 3502 Highway 30, La Grande.

to the city council. Upon approval by the council, Lindsey can begin to collect the 1,280 signatures needed.

If she meets these requirements, the city can take one of three options: accept the repeal and lift the bans; refer the matter to voters on the Nov. 3 ballot; or come up with different stipulations to go on the ballot.

The deadline for the decision is Aug. 5.

BAN

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object to the constitutionality of the ballot. In either case, petitioners must inform the city's election office about the petition by 5 p.m. the following business day.

If there are no objections, the circulation process for the ballot measure begins. Lindsey must provide documentation about the issue



Staff photo by Sabrina Thompson

Characters of the play "Human High School" find something out of this world is going on during rehearsal Monday at La Grande High School. The play opens Thursday, at the school.

Public safety

State police ID cops involved in shooting

EO Media Group

PENDLETON — Oregon State Police identified the officers involved in a shooting last month in rural Umatilla County.

Umatilla County sheriff's deputy Jason Post, 33, and Milton-Freewater police officer James Farr, 31, according to state police, responded after dispatch received a call at 11:44 p.m. on Feb. 24 on a report of shots fired on Woodrow Street in Umapine.

Stacy Albert Clark, 45, was armed and confronted the officers at the door, state police reported in a news release. The officers fired their weapons during the confrontation, striking Clark.

An ambulance took Clark to a local hospital. State police did not report the extent of Clark's injuries but stated he is in the intensive care unit.

Post started as a reserve deputy with Umatilla County in 2010. The sheriff's office hired him full time in



Ben Lonergan/EO Media Group

December 2013. Farr became a police officer in 2013. Milton-Freewater hired him in April 2015.

Both officers remain on paid administrative leave pursuant to Senate Bill 111 and their respective department policies following the incident.

The major crime team detectives on the case have completed interviews and continue to work to

get a complete case to the Umatilla County District Attorney's Office for review.

Neighbors of the Woodrow Street residence where the shooting occurred said they were jolted awake by the sounds of multiple gunshots coming from an automatic weapon.

Alan Benz said he heard three separate sets of multiple shots occur about three to four minutes apart.

PIPES

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were no other lines coming into the line where the plug was located," according to a statement from the city.

The Elgin Public Works Department, led by Brock Eckstein, in January 2018 reported solidified fats, oils and grease completely clogged a 3-foot section of sewer line north of the building, according to public works notes. Public works employees reported seeing grease trap equipment sitting on the back porch of the restaurant, according to the statement by the city, and David Fuhrman acknowledged the greasy mass in the line was the problem and reportedly told someone about dumping "stuff" down the drains.

The city installed a new line and billed the Fuhrmans for the cost of the work. According to Laura Parsons, the bill exceeded \$8,000.

David Fuhrman, however, sent the city an invoice from the plumber he hired to work on the line prior to the city's involvement and asked the city to cover the tab. The city in February 2018 denied the request in a letter, stating the large amounts of grease and non-flushable items in the isolated sewer line caused the damage.

"The grease and trash not only destroyed city property but also violates multiple city ordinances," the letter stated. The city offered to set up a payment plan but

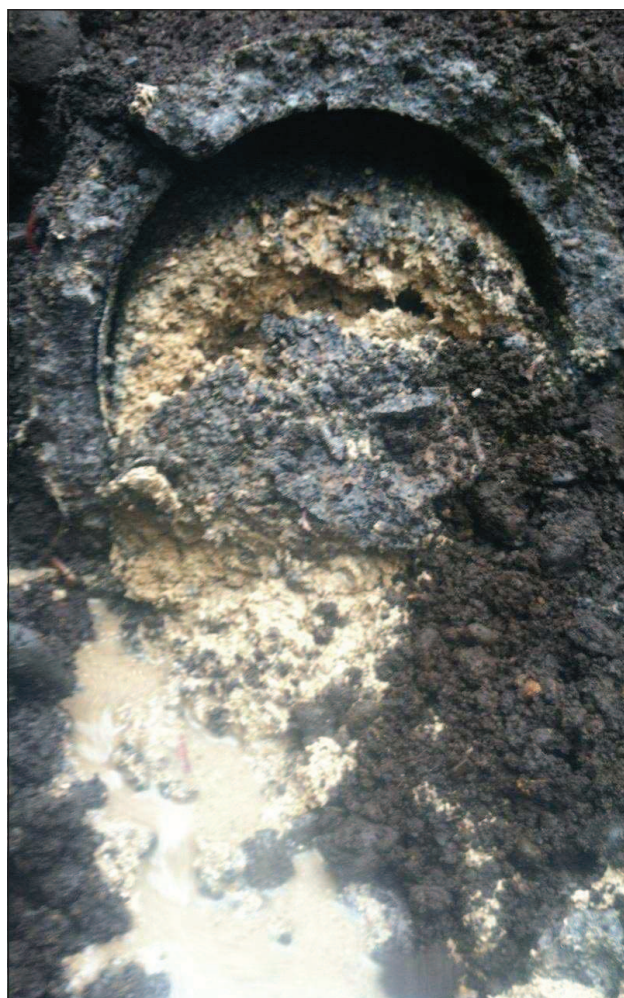


Photo contributed by the city of Elgin

The city of Elgin claims this ball of grease caused damage to the pipes at 795 Alder St. The landowners and renters of the property claim the damage was due to the age of the pipes.

"I feel like we did something wrong but we don't even know what we did. If it wasn't for the people in this town, I don't know that I would fight anymore."

— David Fuhrman

never received a response, according to the statement.

A city employee in August 2019 discovered grease clogging the new sewer line. The city verified the grease came from Cowboy and Angel's and cleared the line after business hours.

According to Eckstein, before the findings in August, the Fuhrmans installed the grease trap equipment, and the city stopped trying to collect on the bill for the pipe's replacement, so long as the restaurant owners remained compliant. It was

the need for repairs once more that set the billing back into motion.

"The city council has bent over backward to work with the owners and property owner," Eckstein said. "We were) even willing to suspend all the repair costs."

Laura Parsons in September 2019 took to Facebook to complain about the city council considering placing a lien on her property because of the unpaid bill for the sewer line work. That December, Parsons received a bill from Elgin Public Safety Director Hillary Wilhelm.

Elgin Mayor Allen Duffy said the city would not revisit the issue and the city council would talk to Parsons about the matter only at public meetings. Parsons said she is unable to attend the meetings because they are at night and she is a caretaker for her husband.

"I feel like we did something wrong but we don't even know what we did," David Fuhrman said. "If it wasn't for the people in this town, I don't know that I would fight anymore."

Eckstein said the city council is still deciding the path it will take regarding the work done to unclog the pipe after it was replaced.

"The council loves the local businesses and does everything they can to help them out," Eckstein said. "At the same time, though, they have to protect city property that the citizens have entrusted to them. They don't ever want to see things come to this point."

PLAY

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industry workshop model," Cahill said.

The director also said in producing an original play he tries to consider audience and student enjoyment. If the student actors are really liking the work, which he believes they are, the audience will, too. Also, by having a story that involves student life, rather than requiring students to play characters twice their age, the production and characters become more accessible to the actors and the audience.

The production has been in rehearsal since the end of January, a quick turnaround time Cahill prefers.

"I believe the number of hours invested in a production does not necessarily improve the quality," he said.

The biggest hurdle the production has overcome, besides an

evolving script, has been technical elements. The show involves projections of images and video, requiring the crew to learn how to work a system they were unfamiliar with.

"Part of the show has to do with a theme of surveillance of the population," Cahill said. "The screens and projections are a tool to show that."

The set for the play is minimal, a signature style for Cahill as it allows for the focus to be on the performers.

"I am an acting-driven director," Cahill said. "I like to see what I can coax out of my actors."

One of the students in the production echoed this idea when talking about his experience working with Cahill. Jacob Moseley, a senior who prostraps one of the male leads, Greg Shropshire, said the director has pushed him to test his limits.

"Cahill has helped me see what kind of acting I can do," Moseley said.

Acting alongside Moseley is senior Maia Vandervlugt, who is making her debut performance on the La Grande High stage after years of performing with the Elgin Opera House. She portrays the counselor the students recruit to stop the aliens. Vandervlugt appreciated the opportunity to further develop her character by working directly with the playwright.

"It is great that we get to see a different side of our characters and get further in depth with them," she said. "There is always a story to discover in your character, and it was nice to see what Cahill was envisioning in order to delve deeper."

Another unique aspect of the show is Cahill's plan to invite students to come onstage each night to act as background characters, no rehearsal necessary.

Tickets for the show are \$5 at the door of the La Grande High School Auditorium.