

Demo:

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tains more than 7,000 feet. It still provides low intensity quakes of Magnitude 2 (M2) to M4 every few years, mostly centered in the Upper Wallowa Valley. Based on the fault's nearly 40-mile length, geologists have calculated that it could unleash a M6 to M7 quake. Mapping of the fault near Wallowa Lake, which shows detailed ground topography even under heavy forest cover, shows no evidence of major faulting or significant fault scarps in the past 17,000 years. But that's only a short time in geologic cycles.

The current gym was built in 1949, Jones said, to replace an earlier one that had burned. She said she expects the seismic work done by fall. The rest of the gym project will take another year.

"The big part of that is the heating and all that," she said. As of March 17, taken out were the bleachers, ceiling, lockers and much more.

"There will be a new, 4,200-square-foot entry that will have a community space and where kids can hang out during lunch, new bathrooms, an elevator that will serve all three floors and as a connector," Jones said. "The elevator will provide access to all the floors of the high school."

Community will have access to an exercise facility



Bill Bradshaw/Wallowa County Chieftain

Robert Horton loads scrap wood removed from the Wallowa High School Cougar Dome on Thursday, March 17, 2022. It was part of the demolition work in the seismic retrofit of the structure.

when students aren't using it, such as during evenings or weekends.

The overall project involves building new walls, a roof, locker rooms, bleachers, adding an exercise room and entryway, a larger gym floor, a laundry room and electrical work.

The seismic retrofit grant was awarded the same year the district approved a \$7 million bond levy and \$4 million grant through the OSCIM Oregon School Capital Improvement

Matching Program.

'Cool history'

Jones said that in the course of the demolition, interesting historical tidbits of the school's past have been uncovered.

"There's a lot of cool history in here," she said.

Former professional football player Amos Marsh, who graduated from WHS in 1957, left his name and year scratched in wood that had been covered up in years past. Marsh, who died

in 1992, went on to play for the Dallas Cowboys and Detroit Lions after college at Oregon State University.

A more local celebrity whose name was found not far from Marsh's is Greg Oveson, a longtime WHS athlete and coach and the current girls basketball coach.

"I have a big tub in my office of all kinds of programs, candy wrappers and stuff that had fallen down through the bleachers over the years," she said.

Film:

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Wallowas definitely look like the Canadian border area."

While "New Life" is not your typical film about the "undead" — they emphasized that "We don't use the 'Z' word," Erin said, it tries to get into the genre with a more realistic approach, Cumming said.

Occasionally, there is some of the "undead"-like appearance to characters.

"There was some freaky makeup in that one," Cumming said of the scenes shot near Joseph.

The only local Cumming mentioned using during production was Michael Ferrell, owner of the Michael's on Main Street salon.

"One of the extras wasn't here and they were filming a scene where they were walking in front of the Humane Society that they put in because of the kitties," Ferrell said. "So I got to be in the movie as a walker with a girl at my side."

Kevin Brown, another associate producer, said he's still unsure when the film will be released.

"It's an independent film, and we don't have a distributor yet," he said. "We make it as best as we can and then try to sell it to a company that's going



Bill Bradshaw/

Wallowa County Chieftain

The makeup isn't ghoulish as in some films about the undead, as is apparent with "New Life" star Hayley Erin during filming of the independent feature Thursday, March 17, 2022, in downtown Enterprise.

to distribute it, whether that's a streamer online or a traditional theatrical (release.)"

Cumming said production should wrap up by April 2 and it should take six months to a year after that before the release date.

"It would be great if we could get it in theaters," she said.

The Portland-based cast and crew of about 25 spent the entire week in Enterprise and Joseph.

"The New Life cast and crew is really grateful to have the cooperation of Enterprise and Joseph and we're really happy to be here," Cumming said.

Rights:

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West said proposals like these have an unintended side effect of uniting groups that are opposed to similar initiatives.

"If anything, my bet is this is something that would solidify and unite the ranchers, farmers and hunters," he said. "It's probably going to unite the other side just to stamp it out once and for all."

Officials from the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla Indian Reservation said they're not worried about the initiative, citing treaties that would supersede the law. They are, however, watching closely in the event the tribes need to take a reactionary approach to the proposal.

"We're continuing to watch and see how far it goes, and see what happens in July to see if they get their initiative fulfilled with the required signatures," said Jiselle Halfmoon, interim communications director for CTUIR. "Then, of course, we'll readress it, but at this time we're pretty secure in our situation."

Law experts say the proposal is misunderstood

Russ Mead, a professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School in Portland, said what the proposal says it will do and what the two opposing factions for the proposition say it will do differ greatly.

"Oregon's animal cruelty laws have a long list of exceptions," he said. "For example,

hunting and killing livestock is exempt from Oregon's animal cruelty laws. IP13 removes these exemptions. The result is not that hunting and killing livestock will be illegal if IP13 passes, it is just that when you hunt, you need to be humane. When you kill livestock, you need to be humane."

The website for IP13 states its goal is to enact legislation that would make it so that "animals on farms, research labs, exhibitions and in the wild would no longer be allowed to be intentionally injured or killed." However, Mead disagrees with the drafters of IP13 and their proposed mission statement on the IP13 webpage. The law as it is proposed, he said, would need to be considered in courtrooms to find the exact limitations and framework.

"Anyone who says any activity will become illegal with the passage of IP13 is just flat wrong," he said. "With the animal cruelty exemptions removed, the Oregon courts will need to decide what animal cruelty is."

How animal cruelty is defined in the law, Mead said, is open-ended.

"Animal cruelty statutes seldom define what is cruel and what is humane," Mead said. "For example, statutes do not specify that beating a dog to death with a baseball bat is cruel. Or that killing a dog by lethal injection is humane."

Mead stated if the proposal did muster up the signatures, and passed in the November ballot, the pro-

posal wouldn't turn hunters into criminals overnight.

"The Oregon courts will need to decide what, if any, hunting and fishing practices violate Oregon animal cruelty laws," he said. "I could well see the courts finding leg-hold traps are cruel. But, I would be shocked if the courts found a father and daughter fishing with a cane pole animal cruelty."

Michelson said one of the secondary goals of the proposal is to help draw attention to exemptions in Oregon statutes regarding animal abuse, and how the animal abuse laws give protections to pets but not to livestock.

"We're one of the few states that acknowledges that animals are sentient in our state statutes," Michelson said. "Yet our animal cruelty laws largely only protect our companion animals. All the other animals, whether they're in farms or in research labs or in the wild, or in rodeos and exhibitions, they're exempt from those same protections."

Michelson noted the ultimate goal of the campaign would be to ensure all animals in Oregon have the same rights and protections that companion animals enjoy.

"Largely, what our campaign is focused on is the right for animals not to be killed or injured, to not be neglected, and to not be forcibly impregnated or forcibly masturbated," he said. "Our focus is very intentionally on that, and so we will continue the campaign until those rights are achieved."

As of Tuesday, March 15, the IP13 Facebook page had

344 followers, and its postings attract more negative comments than supportive ones. If the proposal passes — either now or in 2024 — it likely would face lengthy legal scrutiny, according to Jacob Mannis, the deputy district attorney for Oregon who handles animal cruelty cases.

"It would require a lot of things to happen before it would become the law," he said. "I assume that there would be a round of lawsuits before anything gets enforced, and then there would have to be a law enforcement agency that would investigate, a prosecutor that would prosecute and ultimately a jury that would convict, because anybody in Oregon who's been accused of a crime has a right to a trial by jury."

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