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Big foot prints baffle sheriff

ELMA (UPI) — The Grays Harbor County sheriff's office yesterday was investigating sets of very large footprints in the eastern part of the county.

Sheriff Dennis Morrisette said the footprints were similar to other purported "Bigfoot" prints found in the past.

"There's nothing positive as to what the prints are or what made them," he said.

A Shelton logger, Don Makoviney, spotted a few large footprints near a chemical plant outside Elma on Wednesday. That night an Elma resident, Pat West, discovered two different sets of tracks near a bar on the Satsop River.

One set of footprints measured 17 inches long and 7 inches wide, another was 15 inches long and 5 inches wide, said Morrisette. The prints made quite deep impressions in the earth, he added.

"We've got a 260-pound deputy and he was not able to create that depth of print," said Morrisette. "If it is a hoax, someone went to a lot of trouble in making those prints."

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Skeptical scientists probing phenomena

STANFORD, Calif. — Nationally acclaimed scientists are forming a new society to delve into the study of unidentified flying objects, extra-sensory perception and other on-the-fringe phenomena, a Stanford University professor says.

Space science and astrophysics professor Peter Sturrock, president of the newly-founded Society for Scientific Exploration, said the group includes strong "disbelievers" in UFOs and other forms of parapsychology. Two of them are philosopher Paul Kurtz of the State University of New York in Buffalo and University of Washington psychologist Ray Hyman.

But J. Alen Hynek, the Northwestern University professor who advocates UFO research, and Charles Tart, a University of California-Davis psychology professor who conducts parapsychological research, also belong to the new organization described in this week's journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The society has no intention of endorsing the reality of significance of any particular topic," Sturrock said. "On the other hand, no subject will be prohibited from discussion or publication simply because it is not now an accepted part of scientific or scholarly knowledge."