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'Young Sherlock'

A mystery with a surprise ending and lots of laughs



Director: Students 'meet the challenges'

By Angel Carpenter
Blue Mountain Eagle

The Grant Union drama club delighted audiences last week with the production of "Young Sherlock" on the school stage.

There were 24 actors cast in the play, written by Craig Sodaro and directed by Julie Reynolds.

The two-act play, with a total of six scenes, had many lines for some of the actors and more than 40 exits and entrances.

A few of the actors ended up on crutches, with one main player in a wheelchair — from real-life accidents.

"It wasn't the easiest play, but in following through and following up with it, it was one of the best things that young actors can do — to meet the challenge of doing something that is hard," Reynolds said.

Senior Trejan Speth was cast as main character Sherlock Holmes, attending Butterworth Academy in London, set in 1885, along with his friend John Watson, played by Nick Springer.

"Trejan was not only an important part of the play, but a leader in practice and helpfulness," Reynolds said. "He was always there."

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Eagle photos/Angel Carpenter

Trejan Speth plays the part of a younger Sherlock Holmes in the Grant Union drama club's most recent production.

TOP PHOTO: A cloaked figure kidnaps a student in the Grant Union play "Young Sherlock."



The Grant Union drama club unfolded a mystery Feb. 22-23 with a lot of laughs along the way as they presented "Young Sherlock" on the school stage.



Signora Medici (Kayana McLean) brings her daughter, Rosa (Cheyenne Hayzlett) to the Butterworth Academy.



Ginni Frazier plays the part of clairvoyant Madame Lulu.

John Day safe, but behavioral crime outpaces state

DUI, liquor violations double state average

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

John Day's rate of significant crime was half the state average in 2016.

The city had 42 percent fewer crimes against people and 59 percent fewer crimes against property, but 35 percent more behavioral crimes than the rest of the state, according to a recent report from the John Day Police Department.



Police Chief Richard Gray

There were no reports of willful murder, negligent homicide, kidnapping, robbery, arson, prostitution or illegal gambling, according to the report. However, rates of driving under the influence of intoxicants were 116 percent higher than the state average, while liquor law violations were 138 percent higher. The department lists drug enforcement and substance abuse prevention as its number one priority.

"Because alcohol and marijuana use is legal and pervasive, it plays a particularly strong role in the relationship to crime and other social problems," the report said.

The report states substance abuse directly correlates with crime, and many stolen items are often traded for prescription, legal or illicit drugs.

One method the department uses to combat substance abuse is a drug take back box, which processed over 230 pounds of unwanted medication in 2016. The box is located outside of the John Day Police Department and is under 24-hour surveillance.

Animal control is also a significant problem for the community. John Day and Prairie City had 69 animal complaints in 2016 with 13 for attacks on people or other animals.

The department has five

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King's Variety Store to close its doors

Twenty other locations also shutting down

By Rylan Boggs
Blue Mountain Eagle

King's Variety Store in John Day is closing.

A staple for local consumers, the store is shutting its doors along with 20 other locations in six states in the Northwest. The closures are attributed to the rise of large box stores like Walmart and an increase in the accessibility of online shopping, according to a press release.

"The retail climate has



The Eagle/Rylan Boggs

Kings Variety Store in John Day on Tuesday, Feb. 28.

radically changed in the past decade. ... With the advent of both large-box re-

tail stores and the internet, anyone with a computer can buy from millions of vendors around the world," a press release from the company stated.

"Brick and mortar stores need feet and faces to survive as we have salaries, rents and other costs to cover. Unfortunately for us that is not the current landscape."

The John Day store will lay off 11 people, according to manager Michelle Conkey.

"I've been here for 15 years, it's kind of my second home," Conkey said.

Employees received the news Feb. 20. Conkey said she is devastated, but thank-

ful to the community for their support over the years.

Along with the jobs lost, the community also is losing an outlet for goods like children's clothing.

When Kailee Cherry first moved to Grant County, she found herself in King's all the time, picking up the odds and ends needed to furnish a new house.

Since then she's shopped at King's about once a week for gardening and craft supplies and toys for her two children.

She hopes for a similar store to take its place but, until then, plans to shop on sites like Amazon and Walmart.com to get school

supplies and other items for her 2-year-old and 5-year-old she will no longer be able to buy locally.

Online retailers like Amazon are thriving in the current business climate. The international marketplace delivered over 2 billion items worldwide in 2016, according to an Amazon press release.

At King's, prices are now being dropped in an effort to move merchandise out of the store, which is scheduled to close in May.

Founded by M. H. King in Burley, Idaho, in 1915, the store wanted to provide reasonably priced goods to small communities.

