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## Goodwin sentenced to 68 months for sex crime

By Sean Hart  
Blue Mountain Eagle

A John Day man was sentenced to 68 months in prison after pleading guilty to a sex crime.

William Allen Goodwin III, 28, pleaded guilty to Attempt to Commit a Class A Felony - Unlawful Sexual Penetration in the First Degree Nov. 17, according to the judgment signed by Grant County Circuit Court Judge William D. Cramer Jr. Goodwin was sentenced to 68 months in prison, with 10 years of post-prison supervision, and was ordered to register as a sex offender.



William Allen Goodwin III

Goodwin was indicted May 23 on charges of first-degree unlawful sexual penetration and first-degree sexual abuse to a single victim younger than 12 between March 1, 2015, and Oct. 1, 2015, in Grant County. He originally pleaded not guilty to the crimes in September, and a trial was scheduled to begin Dec. 19.

The Grant County District Attorney's Office elected to prosecute Goodwin with the lesser included charge of Attempt to Commit a Class A Felony, to which he pleaded guilty. The attempt-to-commit charge is a Class B felony. The first-degree sexual abuse charge was dismissed.

According to the judgment, the court increased the sentence beyond what sentencing guidelines typically specify because of the vulnerability of the victim and the stipulation of the parties.

Goodwin may not be considered for any form of reduced sentence, conditional or supervised release program, temporary leave from custody or work release. The judgment recommends the Department of Justice review Goodwin's "situation as to where to place him for safety purposes based on threats of harm to him."

As conditions of post-prison supervision, the court recommended sex offender treatment, polygraphs and no contact with the victim or other minors until approved by a treatment provider and determined by alleged victims to be in their best interest.

# SUBZERO

## Seneca is one of the coldest places in the U.S.

By Rylan Boggs  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Already tied for the record of the coldest recorded temperature in Oregon, the small town of Seneca can now boast it is one of the coldest places in the United States.

Between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016, Seneca was the coldest place in the contiguous United States on 20 different nights, according to Dennis Hull, a meteorologist for the National Weather Service in Pendleton. Only the Yellowstone Park area of Wyoming and Bodie State Park in California had more nights in which either were coldest, he said.

At an elevation of 4,666 feet, Seneca is situated in the lowest part of Bear Valley — a bowl in the mountains in southern Grant County — which leads to the frigid temperatures, Hull said.

"Cold air from the surrounding hills settles and deepens in the valley during the night," he said. "On some of the coldest mornings, the temperature is 15 to 20 degrees lower than ... John Day located just 20 miles to the north."

The locals, however, don't seem to mind the cold weather.

"When you get out, you bundle up," 82-year-old Bob Turner said, adding it is a "dry cold," which is tolerable.

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Seneca was the coldest place in the contiguous United States 20 nights between July 1, 2015, to June 30, 2016. Only Yellowstone Park in Wyoming and Bodie State Park in California were colder more nights.

Contributed photo/Winnie Browning



Eagle photos/Rylan Boggs  
**Leonard Rider, 86, enjoys a laugh and a hot cup of coffee in the Bear Valley Store in Seneca. Rider remembers ice skating as a child despite subzero temperatures.**



The Bear Valley Store in Seneca Friday, Nov. 25.



**Can cozies in the Bear Valley Store. Seneca tied the record for the coldest temperature recorded in Oregon at -54 degrees in February 1933.**

## Christmas concert is finale for longtime director

By Angel Carpenter  
Blue Mountain Eagle

Sounds of the season entertained audiences as Humbolt Elementary School and Grant Union Junior-Senior High School students performed in concerts at Grant Union in John Day last week.

Students in kindergarten through sixth grade sang, and the sixth-grade band performed Dec. 12, the parking lots filled to capacity.

On Dec. 14, the Grant Union combined choir (grades 7-12) presented a range of new holiday songs, as well as traditional tunes, including "Carol of the Bells."

The junior high band and senior band's music in-



Contributed photo/Stephanie Parsons

**Humbolt Elementary students in kindergarten through sixth grade sing to a packed gym at Grant Union Junior-Senior High School for their Christmas program led by director Mary Ann Vidourek.**

cluded a community sing-along at the end with "Rudolf the Red-nosed Reindeer"

and other favorites. The concerts cap music director Mary Ann Vidourek's

25-year career with the school district.

Vidourek retired last

school year and filled in until a new director was found.

Lori Hart, a graduate of Brigham Young University, will step in as director in the new year.

The Grant Union bands and choir presented a surprise number for Vidourek — which they'd practiced on their own — at the close of Wednesday's concert, presenting their director with an armful of flowers.

"It's always been a pleasure to work with my music students in Grant School District No. 3, and I wish all of them and all the amazing staff all the best as they move forward under a new music leadership," Vidourek said.



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