

# Heppner man pieces together bits of Heppner's past

Jared Wicklund of Heppner did some "treasure hunting" during the demolition of the old Heppner Gazette-Times building during the fall of 2005. He found approximately 750 old bottles buried around and beneath the building and in the alley between the building and the Odd Fellows building. He also found dishes he believed to be from the Elkhorn Restaurant, which used to be housed in the Odd Fellows building.



Jared Wicklund used a backhoe (right) and hand digging to find his many bottles.

The inventory of the bottles he found included: whiskey bottles, medicine bottles, tonic bottles, Chinese Tiger whiskey bottles, pumpkin seed flasks, shot glasses, as well as many others in all shapes and colors from clear to cobalt blue to green. He also found many ink bottles and bottles used to distribute medications. He also learned of three previous drug stores in Heppner from bottles imprinted with, "Conser and

Ayers Drug Co., Heppner," "Patterson and Son Druggists, Heppner" and "Slocum Drug Co., Heppner." Wicklund said that he learned that the Conser and Ayers Drug Company went out of business right after the 1903 flood as one of the men had been among those that had drowned.

Wicklund spent about two months digging in the area. He began by hand digging and found many items just six-inches underground. After he finished hand digging, he used a mini-backhoe and dug up to 9-1/2 feet deep. He said that at six feet deep you could see signs of the flood-silt, rocks, etc.

Wicklund has enlisted the help of 10 books to help identify the numerous bottles that are not obvious. He also has looked at old-time photos of Heppner to try and identify businesses that had been in the area. He said that at least two other buildings had been where the Gazette sat. He also said that a mechanic garage was located on the vacant lot next to the Gazette. He also said a doctor's office of some kind must have been in the area as he saw a wooden sign with a doctor's name on it. He also had found old-fashioned syringes.

Many of his pieces date back several years before the flood of 1903, with one bottle stamped Sept. 28, 1875. He said that bottle was really interesting because he found it on Sept. 28, 2005. His said the "newest" pieces he found were from the 1950s.

Wicklund also found some metal items, including an old fishing reel, but said that many of those types of items had corroded and were not well preserved, compared to the many bottles he found. He also commented that for every one whole bottle he found, he found 10 more broken ones. He was shocked at how many survived.

"It was a lot of fun," Wicklund said. However, many of the bottles still had liquid inside and dumping that out was not so fun, "some of the stuff was not so good smelling."

Now that the retrieval is over, Wicklund is still busy identifying the bottles and says he has quite a few left to go. He is also busy trying to discover all of the businesses that were in the area. "I'm still trying to learn about a lot of it [businesses and bottles]," said Wicklund.

## Tom Norton to speak at Christian Life Center



Norton with children at the orphanage.

Tom Norton of Portland will be speaking at Christian Life Center Sunday, May 21 during the morning service at 10:30 a.m. Norton will be making his fifth trip to Russia to visit an orphanage. He will be sharing about his upcoming trip during the service.

Norton was originally introduced to Russia through his work, but feel in love with the children at the orphanage and returns as often as possible.

Some of the things he wishes to accomplish at the orphanage include: presenting the Good News of salvation through Jesus

Christ; making repairs and painting as needed; teaching conversational English; teaching Bible songs in the Russian language and spending much time with all the children.

To hear more about Norton's experiences and upcoming goals, be sure to attend the meeting. He is sure to have many pictures and letters from the children of Russia.



Tom Norton

## St. Patrick's Senior Center news

The menu for St. Patrick's Senior Center's May 24 noon meal is barbecue chicken, oven French fries, apple raisin salad, sliced tomatoes, hot bread and applesauce cake. United Methodist volunteers will be hosts for the event.

Ed Baker and Grace Drake attended the Advisory Committee meeting for Umatilla-Morrow Area Agency on Aging. A number of other passengers on the bus were able to enjoy bingo while the meeting was in session.

Federal funds for the current budget (2006-07) are reduced eight percent. How adjustments can be best made to cover the short-fall were discussed. A motion was passed to raise the suggested donation from seniors (60 and over), for the noon meal, to \$3 per person and the charge of non-seniors (59 and under) to \$6 per person as of July 1, 2006.

Doug Gunderson is the resident highlighted this week. He is one among the first roster of residents in the apartment complex. Until recently, he has served as assistant manager. He is a native of Heppner, born in the mid-50s, graduating from high school in the seventies and then attended Blue Mountain Community College. While a student at BMCC, he had the privilege and pleasure of meeting and shaking hands with both Presidents Ford and Carter.

His favorite activities are bowling and golf. He adds to his lists attending baseball and football games.

His parents are Eddie Gunderson and the late Beverly Gunderson. After college, he worked in his mother's accounting business. His grandmother and his mother, Beverly, died within a year and a half of each other. He has made good friends while like at St. Patrick's. He not only enjoys living there, he gives volunteer time to its upkeep.



Wicklund displays over 750 bottles and is still working hard to identify many of the pieces.



Some of Wicklund's favorite pieces, including a Chinese Tiger whiskey bottle, inkwells, old shaving mug and three stamped drug store bottles.

## Memorial Day dinner planned

A Morrow County Memorial Day dinner will be held Sunday, May 28 at 1 p.m. in the dining room of the St. Patrick Senior Center in Heppner.

A time to meet and greet friends and relatives is planned to start at 12:30 p.m., with a welcoming ceremony and program to follow.

Dinner is provided by the senior center and community churches. The cost of the dinner is \$6 for those six and over and under six years old is \$3. The menu includes an entrée of turkey breast or roast beef, a variety of salads and dessert of

homemade cobbler and ice cream. Any proceeds from the dinner will be used to provide necessities for the Senior Center.

Volunteers are especially needed to help with set up and serving. If you can help, please call the Senior Center business office at 676-9030.

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## Domestic Violence Services to hold volunteer training classes

Domestic Violence Services of Umatilla and Morrow counties will be holding volunteer training for its crisis line and other areas of volunteer opportunities. The classes will be held in Pendleton May 27, June 3, 10 and 17. All classes will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. The classes will be held at the DVS counseling offices at 1103 SE Court Place, Pendleton. For more information or to register, call 276-3322 or 567-0424.