

On The Road Again: Drain—Yoncalla

February 9-12, 2009

by Mary Daly, Program Manager, Tooth Taxi

Last week found us in Douglas County serving students in the North Douglas and Yoncalla School Districts. The Tooth Taxi was parked at North Douglas Elementary in Drain and also served students from neighboring Yoncalla. The Tooth Taxi is the first dental van hosted by North Douglas Elementary. While we were there, we were joined by the Lions Club van for one day while they completed vision screenings (see att photo).



A 13-year-old patient presented with 'the worst dental decay' Dr. Heringer had ever seen.



Dr. Heringer screens Tooth Taxi patients in the North Douglas Elementary School library.

We stayed at a Hotel in Cottage Grove, and witnessed a field of 60 elk just off I-5 on our way to the hotel one evening. It was quite a sight, one of the fringe benefits of the job.

Usually the weekly recaps involve a lot of feel good stories. Last week we screened a 13-year-old girl who had the worst dental decay Dr. Heringer had ever seen. Her permanent front teeth were rotted to the gumline, her gingiva so bad she flinched with just an oral exam. This was a case of dental neglect = child abuse. Dr. Heringer spoke to the school counselor and the principal about the situation. The school will follow up with appropriate measures.

For screenings that take place in schools we end up in a variety of places—wherever they have room: office, lunchroom, nurse's station, hallway, gym, stage, and my favorite, the library.

We were visited by the editor of the local newspaper, *The Drain Enterprise*, "Your Local Newspaper in the Heart of the Douglas Fir Region." Unfortunately they do not have online news, but our story and photos should have been published.

From the kindergartner quote gallery

"Are you the dentist guy?"

"Black is a boy color"

"I hope I never do this again"

"I'm so glad I got a sparkly tooth cuz I never had one."

School Stats

- 106 students screened (72 from Drain, 34 from Yoncalla)
- 24 students treated in the van
- \$26,846 value of free dental services provided.

Summary

Tooth Taxi, September 2008 - February 13, 2009

- 1215 students screened
- 306 students received oral hygiene education in the classroom
- 547 students treated in the van
- \$359,347 value of free dental services provided.

Next week on the road: Roseburg, Fir Grove Elementary School

Next week's recap: Coos Bay, Madison Elementary School