

Perrydale School Board member Trina Comerford examines the teeth of preschooler Patrick Fox on Thursday. Comerford organized dental screenings for K-8 students at the school and opened it to the public in the afternoon and evening. Volunteer screeners made referrals to a dental van that will be at the school on Friday to provide free care. Dallas dentist Matthew Woolsey will perform the dental services.



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Flash those pearly whites

Dental screenings designed to help Perrydale students, community

By Jolene Guzman
The Itemizer-Observer

PERRYDALE — The whole process took only a few minutes, but the dental screenings that took place at Perrydale School on Thursday afternoon are something some families simply can't afford.

In some cases, they don't have dental insurance or fall among the ranks of the "underinsured." Serving children and community members who fall into those categories was what drove Perrydale School Board member Trina Comerford to organize a dental screening at the school.

She said the issue emerged for her earlier this school year, when she was helping out on a student senior project to deliver wood to senior citizens who couldn't afford to heat their homes.

"There is a gentleman in our county who had a toothache, and when we were delivering the wood he was pulling his tooth out — I



JOLENE GUZMAN/Itemizer-Observer

Dental screening volunteers Melinda Cutler and Trina Comerford screen students and ask questions about brushing habits at Perrydale School on Thursday.

mean, with a pair of pliers," she recalled. "He couldn't afford to buy his wood, so obviously he couldn't afford to get his tooth fixed."

After seeing that, she decided it was time to start working on bringing the

dental van to Perrydale.

"I've been wanting to have a dental van in Perrydale for years," she said of her thought after that delivery. "I might as well get busy now."

Comerford has experience with school-based dental

screenings, having worked in the Dallas School District for years, but her first thought was to provide screenings for Perrydale-area residents. She was especially concerned for senior citizens — like the man who resorted to doing his own tooth extraction — whose coverage through Medicaid or Medicare is often minimal and who struggle to find dentists.

That original goal soon evolved into screening all K-8 students at Perrydale School.

"If their teeth aren't healthy or if their parents are having trouble affording their dental costs, it can have a direct impact on their education," she said.

Comerford said the exams provide another benefit: "Through the screenings, you are able to identify the people who are underinsured or don't have insurance and then help them find resources."

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SCHOOL NOTES

FC School District has new website

FALLS CITY — The next time you visit Falls City School District's website, be prepared to be surprised: It's new.

Still "under construction," the new site greets visitors with "Welcome to our new website ... Watch us grow!"

On the site, you can find district calendars, sports schedules, school and after-school program FACES menus, Falls City School Board meeting minutes, and even a link to buy Mountaineers' apparel.

For more information: www.fallscityschools.org.

ACADEMIC HONORS

Locals receive recognition at OSU

CORVALLIS — A number of local residents qualified for inclusion on the 2014 fall term scholastic honor roll at Oregon State University. Students must maintain a grade-point average of 3.5 or better and carry at least 12 graded hours of coursework to qualify.

Local students recognized include:

From Dallas — Straight-A Average: Serena D. Chiellini, sr., biohealth sciences; and Mitchell J. Senger, sr., physics. **3.5 or Better:** Alexander L. Bird, jr., civil engineering; Katharine E. Crawford, jr., psychology; Matthew T. Dimick, sr., forest management; Alyson N. Hammill, jr., human development and family science; Callie A. Instenes, sr., graphic design; Jeffrey R. Kennedy, jr., pre-general engineering; Caleb T. Naughton, fr., environmental sciences; Glen D. Nicol, sr., computer science; Joseph P. Orton, fr., biology; Logan G. Stewart, sr., electrical and computer engineering; Zacheriah A. Tucker, sr., psychology; and Mychal P. Westendorf, jr., forest engineering.

From Grand Ronde — 3.5 or Better: Amy D. Hyatt, jr., human development and family science.

From Independence — Straight-A Average: Melissa R. Whitaker, soph., pre-civil engineering. **3.5 or Better:** Samuel A. Sprague, sr., economics; and Olivia M. Zuercher, sr., English.

From Monmouth — Straight-A Average: Kate M. Fitzgerald, sr., natural resources; and Benjamin E. Petersen, soph., history. **3.5 or Better:** Erica B. Brown, jr., environmental sciences; Monique L. Lafond, sr., management; Michael W. Osborn, soph., chemistry; and Nicholas A. Silva, sr., chemical engineering.

From Rickreall — Straight-A Average: Angela J. Porter, sr., liberal studies. **3.5 or Better:** Audrey R. Regan, jr., English; and Bridget H. Regan, soph., zoology.

Polk students make GFU dean's list

NEWBERG — Eight students from the local area qualified for inclusion on the 2014-15 fall semester dean's list at George Fox University in Newberg. Students receive the recognition by earning a 3.50 grade-point average or better for the term.

GFU dean's list honors went to: Hilary Broadus of Dallas, a senior majoring in nursing; Courtney DuMond of Dallas, a junior majoring in biology; Julie Hedrick of Independence, a senior majoring in elementary education; Christopher Parks of Monmouth, a senior majoring in history and politics; Anna Spence of Dallas, a senior majoring in nursing; Emily Thiessen of Dallas, a sophomore majoring in organizational communication; Katherine Vanlandingham of Monmouth, a senior majoring in journalism; and Victoria Wilson of Dallas, a senior majoring in management.

Monmouth youth finishes program

BEND — Aimee Timshel of Monmouth graduated from the Oregon National Guard Youth Challenge Program (OYCP) during a ceremony held Dec. 17. The event marked the completion of a rigorous 5½-month residential phase. OYCP is a statewide accredited alternative high school.



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