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FREE

Local Dentists Return from One Month Mission Trip to Kenya

Jackson, CA – Two local dentists, Drs. Ron and Jerhet Ask from Jackson Creek Dental Group, along with Dr. Lawryn Ask and their families, recently returned from a mission trip to Kenya where they performed general dentistry on over 400 Maasai people and other local residents.

“Our days began with a crowd of people at the door waiting to be triaged outside with flashlights, and we always took those that were in pain first. Some of them had walked 10-20 miles on washed out dirt roads and some came 60 miles by motorcycle, and they might have waited all day to be seen,” stated Ron Ask, DDS.

The Maasai Dental Clinic in Siana Spring was opened in 2009 by Dr. Raymond Damazo of Bellevue, Washington. It is a modern, three-chair clinic run on solar panels and batteries with an apartment upstairs to house volunteer dentists and their families. The clinic is located right in the heart of the Mara, home to more than 50,000 and in a location giving access to one of the most underserved communities in the world, free of charge. Most of these families raise and herd cattle, sheep and goats and sell their animals at the market.

On this visit the doctors typically saw 10-25 patients each day. Of those, about two thirds were treated for extractions and the remaining received preventative, restorative and cosmetic dentistry. The most common complaint was



Dr. Ron Ask provided free dentistry to local Maasai people in Kenya, a very rewarding experience for the dentists and their families. Courtesy Photo to The Gold Country Times

pain. The Maasai people are an elegant, attractive and proud people. They are aware of the importance that a beautiful smile will have on their lives and will walk hours across the muddy, dirt roads, in the middle of rainstorms to come to the clinic when the volunteer dentists are in town. These families may have 9-10 children and there may be multiple wives. “The Maasai people have the same basic needs and wants that we do, and came to us to receive a pretty smile, be able to eat and get out of pain,” said Ron.

The team also drove over 5 hours to an outlying area where they did mostly extractions for those in pain and screened people to come back to the clinic for other dental needs. “The majority of the patients didn’t speak English, so it was wonderful to have the clinic manager and assistant there to help out with translations,” reported Jerhet Ask, DDS. “We saw a lot of discoloration and malformation of the teeth from too much natural fluoride in the drinking water, so we did a lot of composites and bonding. It was awesome to help the Massai people

feel better about themselves and set out on the road to good dental health.” Although they worked M-F from 8 to 5 (or longer), one of the perks of volunteering there was the weekend safari drives through the Sekenani Gate of the Maasai Mara Game Reserve provided by the clinic manager, William.

The Massai Mara Game Reserve (in Kenya) is contiguous with the Serengeti Game Reserve (in Tanzania). Animals have a circular migration pattern within these reserves known as “The Great Migration” and some 2 million animals make this migration every fall. The Asks said they were amazed at the diversity of large animals that they saw living in the same area: lions, hippos, rhinos, elephants, giraffes, wildebeests, cheetahs, and spotted hyenas.

The dentists at Jackson Creek Dental Group have been on many mission trips providing free dentistry in some of the poorest areas of the world. These include trips to Armenia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru and Costa Rica and Africa. They also host Smiles for Kids each year, providing free dentistry to the kids right here in Amador County who do not have access to dental care.

Jackson Creek Dental Group offers a full range of advanced, comprehensive dental specialties, from general care, periodontal care, dental implants and orthodontics to cosmetic dentistry, smile design and full mouth reconstruction.

Jackson Creek Dental Group is open Monday through Thursday, 7:00am - 6:00pm and Friday, 7:00am-5:00pm. (209) 223-2712 or www.JacksonCreekDental.com

The Amador County Concert Band

A free concert will be presented by the 48-member Amador County Concert Band under the direction of Steve Chambers and Irv Gidding on Sunday, August 9th at 3pm. The program will be held at the Community Church of Pine Grove, 14045 Ponderosa Way, Pine Grove, CA.

Featured music will be a medley from “Unsinkable Molly Brown”, transcribed for concert band by Alfred Reed. Another special medley from “The Pirates of Penzance” written by Gilbert and Sullivan and arranged by none other than John Philip Sousa will be on the program.

Two of our outstanding musicians will be featured in Doppler’s “Rhondo” for two flutes and concert band. A Spanish march call “Zacatecas” and an American march called “The Klaxon” will be on the program. From Italy, a very special arrangement of “O Sole Mio” is planned. From the latest film scores, a wonderful arrangement of music from the Disney film “Brave” will give the concert a Celtic flair.

The Amador County Concert Band proudly represented Northern California in June 2010, when it was selected to perform in Washington D.C. for the National Community Concert Band Sousa Festival, a salute to the legendary march king, John Philip Sousa.

Under former musical director Ernie Kappahn, the band gained very high recognition and since the band’s return, has gained new members, some traveling from as far away as Sonora, Placerville, El Dorado Hills, Cameron Park, and Sacramento.

The band also was chosen to perform last year at the Golden Gate Park Band Festival in June

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California Cavern

announces a new and exciting historic lantern tour that incorporates Registry Hall, which has not been apart of the standard cave walking tour since 1985. Guests follow a guide in 1850s mining costume through the historic sections of California Cavern that were discovered during the famous California Gold Rush. The tour begins with a small set of grinding stones located just outside the cave. Guests then enter the cavern through the original entrance and view parts of the cavern that were used for meetings, church services and more.

Visitors will be captivated by short readings from historic documents pertaining to the cavern’s history and the rare viewing of Registry Hall that designated California Cavern as a State Historic Landmark. The guide reads from an historic news article about the cavern’s discovery. The entire tour will be illuminated by lamplight as each person carries an old-style lantern to negotiate the trail.

The soft, low-light produced by the lanterns transports guests back to the mid-1800s by replicating the experience of early visitors to the

cavern. This amazing tour into the past is limited to 15 guests, so reservations are recommended. This tour is only available on Saturdays at 5pm beginning August 1st through September 26th for ages 8 years and up.

Cost of the Tour is \$19.95 for adults and \$12.95 for children between 8 and 12 years of age. For information on availability, reservations and directions, please call 866-762-2837.

California Cavern, 9565 Cave City Road, Mountain Ranch. More information online at: www.cavernstours.com/

Cupcake Day

Monday, August 17th, eat delicious cupcakes and help animals in need. Fight Animal Cruelty. www.rspcupcakeday.com.au/

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