

Mendoza sets new goals for Warm Springs pediatric dentistry

by Anthony Bruno

Trips to the dentist have always been difficult, especially for children. To make matters worse for local residents, children have had to be taken out of town to see a pediatric dentist — that is until now.

Dr. Frank Mendoza, formerly a pediatric dentist on the Navajo Indian Reservation, has made a move to the local Warm Springs Health and Wellness Clinic. His 16-year career with the Indian Health Service (IHS) has brought him here, to Warm Springs where

he joins Dr. Mark Sheper, Dr. Robin Sheper, Dr. Richard Vaughn, Louise Hayre, Juanita Simpson, Sam Heath, Natalia Sam, Kristi Burk, Korina Bruno, Darlene Nez, G.Micco Wamego, Ava Smith, and Lehua Antone as part of the Warm Springs dental staff.

Dr. Mendoza first attended dental school on the east coast in North Carolina. After school, he went to work for the IHS. He was a general dentist for 10 years before going back to school, this time into pediatric dental training from 1991 to 1993 at the University of Minnesota. After completing school, Mendoza then worked four years on the Navajo Reservation.

"This is my first time out here," says Mendoza. "I've been with IHS, and during the 16 years, I've had chances to go to different areas." Mendoza was offered five other jobs in different locations, each, he was able to visit. "Everything seemed ideal here."

Early childhood dental care has been important in many Native



Dr. Frank Mendoza

American communities, and Dr. Mendoza has goals for the health of the children here in Warm Springs. While he is here, Mendoza plans to work with treating tooth decay, but also working with preventive efforts. With the community working hard, he believes this will easily be accomplished. "I think it would be a very good accomplishment for a community to be able to do that, and I think we can do that here, by working together."

By the age of ten, 60 percent of children have no tooth or mouth decay in the U.S. This is a goal Dr. Mendoza hopes for, and will push to reach for the children of Warm Springs. "If we work together, we can accomplish anything we want, and that's what I hope we'll be able to do."

Tuition break—Continued from page 1

required to document tribal enrollment. Those procedures are now being developed at Eastern Oregon University, Western Oregon University, Southern Oregon University, Oregon State University, Portland State University, the University of Oregon, and the Oregon Institute of Technology.

The federally recognized Oregon tribes under the policy include: Burns Paiute Tribe; Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua and Siuslaw; Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde Community of Oregon; Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians of Oregon; Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation; Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs

Indian Reservation; Coquille Indian Tribe; Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Indians; and Klamath Tribes.

First day of school is September 1

Earaches in children can be painful, causing hearing loss

What are the symptoms of ear infections?

Most common: ear pain; fever; May be: irritable or listless; have trouble hearing; not feel like eating.

If you child is too young to tell you what hurts, he or she may cry and full. The ear pain may appear to be worse when your child lays his or her head down on the side of the affected ear.

If the eardrum bursts, there may be pus or blood coming from the ear.

A child with fluid in the ear may not have such obvious symptoms, making it easy to miss.

Will earaches hurt my child's hearing?

Hearing loss caused by earaches can cause trouble with speech and language development if the hearing loss lasts long enough.

What is the treatment for earaches?

If infection is suspected, antibiotics are prescribed. These medicines kill the bacteria that cause many infections. It's very important to follow the directions for taking these medicines, and to finish all of the

medicine.

Pain relievers like acetaminophen (Tylenol) can help your child feel better and reduce fever. Don't give your child aspirin.

A warm, not hot, heating pad held over the ear can also help relieve pain.

If the eardrum has burst, your doctor may prescribe antibiotic drops.

What can be done to prevent ear infections from returning?

Some children seem to get one ear infection after. If your child has had three ear infections in six months or four in one year, your doctor may suggest that your child take a low dose of antibiotics every day, usually in the winter, when these infections are most common. Your doctor may want to see your child again when he or she is taking the antibiotics to make sure another ear infection hasn't developed. It's also a good idea to keep your child away from cigarette smoke.

What about fluid that stays in the middle ear?

Usually the fluid goes away in two or three months, and hearing

returns to normal.

But if the fluid stays for more than a few months, your doctor may want to check your child's hearing.

Your doctor may recommend ear tubes (tympanostomy tubes) to drain the fluid if your child's hearing is decreased a lot.

Ear tubes may also decrease the number of repeat infections that occur.

What are tympanostomy tubes?

These tiny plastic tubes help balance the pressure in your child's ears and allow air into the middle ear so that fluid can drain out down the Eustachian tube.

They're put into the eardrum during surgery and stay in place for an average of six to nine months.

These tubes are usually left in place until they fall out on their own or your doctor decides your child no longer needs them. Sometimes, another set of tubes may be needed.

What causes earaches?

Earaches commonly occur when the Eustachian tube becomes blocked.

Blockage of the Eustachian tube

prevents fluid from draining out of the tube.

Fluid in the middle ear provides a good place for an infection to start.

Infection with blockage increases pressure behind the eardrum, which in turn causes much of the pain.

The Eustachian tubes can become blocked because of swelling of the tubes during a cold or other infection.

Why are earaches so common in children?

This may be because their Eustachian tubes are shorter and smaller as well as angles differently than those of adults.

Things that may put children at higher risk or ear infections: Being around people who smoke; Having had ear infections before, particularly if before the child's first birthday; Having a family history of ear infections; Being bottle-fed instead of breast-fed; Staying in day care; Being premature or having had a low birth weight; being a boy (boys tend to have more middle ear infections than girls).

Headstart program has openings

The Warm Springs Headstart program currently has slots available for both part-day and full-day attendance for 3 and 4 year old children. A 12-month full-day program is now in session and will operate through June 30, 1999. The 10-month full-day program will start September 1, 1998 and will operate through June 4, 1999. The full-day rooms are open 7:30 a.m. through 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Fees for full-day slots are \$90 a month.

The part-day program will start September 1, 1998 and operate through June 5, 1999. The part-day rooms operate 7:30 a.m. through 12:30 p.m. No fees are charged for the part-day program.

If you have a 3 or 4 year-old child, call us to register at 553-3241 and

Dear Parent/Guardian:

Providing child care and early childhood programs at rates that parents can afford is a growing challenge and requires our taking advantage of all available funding resources. One of these resources is the cash reimbursement from the U.S. Department of Agriculture for meals served in the program. This benefits you because it helps us to keep the charge for child care at a lower rate.

So that we can keep our fee schedule low and provide excellent food service for children, we need the information requested on the Income Statement. Please complete, sign and return the Income Statement as soon as possible. This information will be kept strictly confidential. Your cooperation is appreciated.

ask for Versa Smith, Reona Trimble or Nancy Seyler. Complete registration packets must be on file before children can start school. This includes a physical exam and updated immunization record. Some parents started their child's registration in April or May. If you are one of these parents, call us to complete your child's registration packet and sign-up for a parent orientation. Two parent orientation sessions are scheduled daily at 12 noon and again at 3 p.m., August 17 through 21, at ECE Conference room 2E.

Children must live on or near the Warm Springs Indian Reservation and meet income guidelines. Families living in Madras who are employed on the Warm Springs Indian Reservation are eligible to apply.

Income Eligibility Guidelines July 1, 1998 to June 30, 1999

Household size	Year	Month	Week
One	14,893	1,242	287
Two	20,073	1,673	387
Three	25,253	2,105	486
Four	30,433	2,537	586
Five	35,613	2,968	685
Six	40,793	3,400	785
Seven	45,973	3,832	885
Eight	51,153	4,263	984

For each additional family member +5,180 per year; +432 per month; +100 per week.

Additional requirements Report changes during the year-household size or income.

If anyone in the household becomes unemployed, the member of your household enrolled at the center may become eligible for meals during the period of this unemployment if the loss income causes the household's total to be within the eligible standards on the enclosed application.

If during the year, there are decreases in your family size or increases in your income which exceed \$50 per month or \$600 per year, you MUST report those changes to the center so that appropriate adjustments can be made.

If you list a food stamp case number, TANF or FDIPIR assistance number, you must advise the center when you longer receive food stamps, TANF or FDIPIR.

The Child and Adult Care food Program is available to all eligible participants regardless of race, color, sex, age, disability, religion or national origin. Any person who believes that he or she has been discriminated against in any USDA related activity should write immediately to the Secretary of Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250.

Police make felony stop on kids with water pistols

by Bob Medina

On August 3, 1998 at about 2:30 p.m. while sitting at my office at Spilyay Tymoo, I heard my son's name (Thomas Medina) mentioned on the police scanner. The reporting officer (Mark Coffee) reported to the dispatcher Mariam Tias that my son was in a maroon vehicle with three other subjects, brandishing a gun. Coffee requested that another officer make the stop on the maroon vehicle because he was unable to respond as he was on another assignment at the time.

Hearing my son's name on the police radio, I immediately phoned the police dispatcher, gathered information and responded to the scene at the Forestry complex.

By what I observed and by interviewing the responding police officers (Floyd Calica, Bob Springel and James Cole) and the three youth workers (Jonas Miller, Garrette Greene and my son) and their supervisor Gorky Mitchell, at the scene, this is the information I gathered.

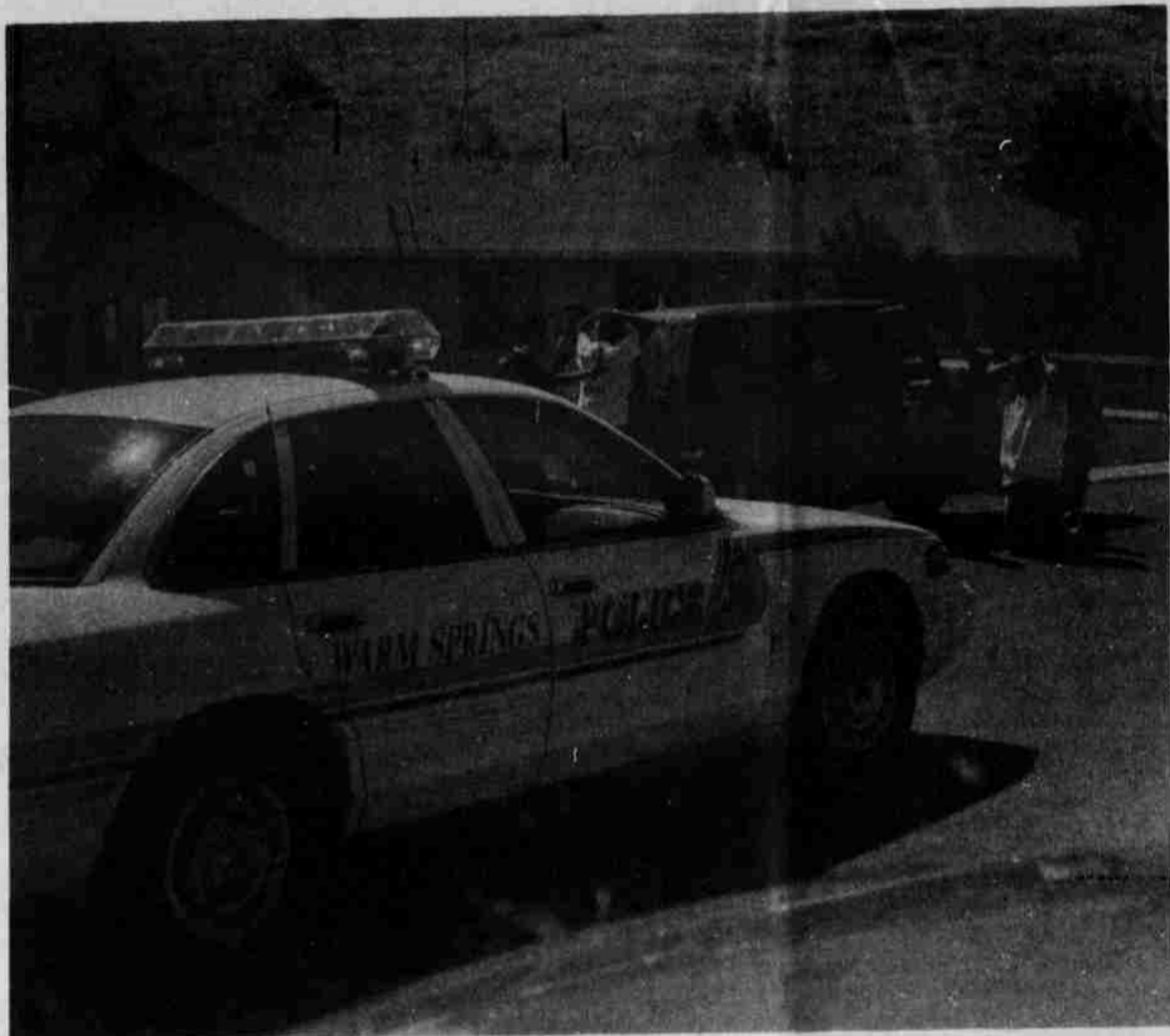
The maroon BIA vehicle was seen by Coffee, crossing the intersection of Highway 26, headed north from the campus area with four individuals. The three summer youth workers and their supervisor were returning to Forestry from their day's work. The windows were rolled down in the rig since the temperature reached well over 100 degrees that afternoon. The three youths were trying to keep cool by innocently squirting each other with water pistols.

At the intersection of Highway 26 and campus, the kids continued squirting each other with water guns. One of the youths noticed a police vehicle approaching from the opposite direction and recognized the officer driving. The youth worker loudly yelled out "Oh Sh—, it's Coffee."

My son, at the same instant, was holding a water gun in his hand, squirting one of his work partners when Coffee and his cadet met and passed their rig. The officer saw the water gun held by Thomas. The water gun looked like a real hand gun to Coffee and the boys realized that Coffee had a concerned look on his face.

As the vehicles passed by each other, the four waved and smiled at Coffee indicating and assuring him that they were just messing around trying to keep cool squirting each other with the water guns. The four continued to their destination, anxious to put an end to a very hot afternoon. The day was far beyond being over.

While parked outside the Forestry building, the boys were waiting for



Three summer youth workers were subjected to a felony stop August 3 at the Warm Springs Forestry complex.

their supervisor who had gone inside to report in. The youth workers, still hot, continued to play around, squirting one another. They noticed that a police vehicle had arrived and had parked behind them. They noticed another police car arrive. The boys did not hide the water guns or attempt to run because they never imagined they could be in trouble.

The next thing the three boys in the vehicle remember, was seeing officer Floyd Calica with his gun drawn and yelling, "Thomas Medina, you pointed a gun at a police officer. Get out of the f—g vehicle with your hands on your head."

I arrived at the scene while Calica was placing my son into the patrol vehicle. Even after Calica learned that the weapon was just a water pistol, he continued the felony stop in a very nervous and shaky manner. Calica was not alone; he had backup at the scene. The backup officer (Bob Springel) held a shotgun at the youths while they knelt down on the hot pavement.

One-by-one, Calica held his hand gun to the back of each kid's head while trying to hand cuff them. Calica

then walked backwards a short ways, gun still in hand and on the teenagers' heads. Viewing all of this, I felt this type of police work was very unprofessional. After knowing that the "weapon" was just a toy water gun, Calica should have taken control of the situation in a much different manner.

But instead, Calica proceeded to continue to endanger the teenagers, other officers, the cadets and the spectators on what he later called "police procedures." One-by-one, except for the supervisor who was out of the vehicle already, the youths were placed in the back of a patrol unit. Without saying a word, Calica got inside his police vehicle and was getting ready to leave with them. Until detective James Cole arrived at the scene, that is.

Right then and there, I learned that Calica had heard the call wrong! He was under the impression that a gun had been pointed at an officer. At that time, Cole corrected Calica and advised him that brandishing a weapon was not a crime. Brandishing a weapon could not be found in the Warm Springs Law and Order

Code. The youth workers had to be released.

I proceeded to ask the officers and the detective what had occurred before the traffic stop. Calica replied by stating that the call he heard was that my son had pointed a gun at an officer. Detective Cole advised Officer Calica again, that the call he heard was brandishing a gun. I told Calica, that I, too, had heard the same radio message as the detective had described it. I told Calica that I had gone beyond that and had made contact with the dispatcher and that she, too, remembered the call as, "Thomas Medina, in a maroon ranger vehicle, brandishing a gun."

It's sad, but true. Calica misunderstood the call and acted on what he thought he had heard; that a gun had been pointed at an officer. The three boys agreed that it was a stupid idea to have the water guns in their possession. But the boys also feel they did nothing wrong. After seeing the water gun I agree that it looked like a real 44 pistol.

The boy's intentions were not to get into trouble with the water guns, but only to try to stay cool in the 100-

plus degree weather. The boys also understand the stress the officers are going through with all the gun calls and shootings over the last two months.

I asked Coffee his side of the story. I asked him if any of the youths inside the maroon vehicle pointed a gun at him or his vehicle? Coffee's reply was, "No! but I felt threatened." I asked him the same question again to make sure that what I had heard was correct. Coffee's second reply was, "I saw a gun. I heard my name. I felt threatened so I reported to dispatch."

The incident was apparently not important enough for the officers to investigate any further or to gather information. No statements were taken from anyone at the scene.

After speaking with Coffee, I made contact with Chief Of Police "Stoney" Miller, and advised him of the police radio transmission I heard and what I had observed at the scene. He assured me that he would look into the matter.

On the following day, August 4, my son was still too shook up to report to work. He kept wondering why police officers have labeled him a bad kid. "Dad, even though I've been in minor trouble before with the law, I still respect the law and would never do something as stupid as to point a water gun at them." Thomas took the day off.

At about 1:00 p.m., my son was at home when his supervisor stopped by to let him know that a meeting had been scheduled for that afternoon to discuss the gun incident. Mitchell was under the impression that the meeting was set to fire the boys for what had occurred.

As a concerned parent and community member and fearing for my son's job, I chose to attend the meeting to protect my son and the other youth workers and share the information and facts I had gathered. My thoughts were correct. After having a gun to their heads on Wednesday, the youth workers were getting terminated on Thursday. All because of

the officer's misunderstanding.

Public Safety General Manager Anita Jackson, BIA investigator Carmen Smith and Forestry Manager Bodie Shaw attended the meeting. They, too, were unaware of the whole story. They were still under the impression that the youths had pointed a gun at an officer. Obviously none of the officers had filed a report or made their supervisors aware of the situation.

Jackson told the youth workers that police officers do not appreciate guns being pointed at them. After detective Cole and I explained the situation to Jackson, Smith and Shaw, they seemed puzzled. I went on to ask Calica about the discussion I had with Coffee after the incident. Calica and his cadet were present when I asked Coffee if any of the youths had pointed a gun at him or his vehicle. Calica agreed at the meeting that the answers Coffee had given me were the ones I had already repeated during the meeting. I reminded everyone present that with the facts I had, the youth workers should not be fired nor should any charges be brought against them. I could file a suit against someone.

Smith agreed and no charges will be brought against the boys. Shaw also agreed that the youth workers would continue to stay employed. As for discipline of the officers, who knows.

On that hot August afternoon, the boys learned a valuable lesson about guns and police; a lesson that must be heeded by the community. This was a police officer's horrible error. I feel that some type of discipline should be taken against these officers. They were too quick in judging the youth workers and created a potentially lethal situation.

To ensure the safety of our entire community, especially our youth, wouldn't it be beneficial to have properly trained and experienced police officers?

I can only hope this type of incident does not repeat itself for all our sakes.

A bit of advice...
Parents: Be a part of your children's lives. Know what they're doing. Know who their friends are. Let your kids know you care.
Kids: We were lucky this time. Thousands have been fatally shot because a toy gun looked like the real thing. Use care when playing around.