

Change at IHS dental showing success

About this time last year the Warm Springs Health and Wellness Center Dental Clinic made a big change.

The clinic began offering an alternative way to treat children who develop tooth decay.

For about a year now, parents have been offered the option of having their children's tooth cavities treated initially with a medication called silver nitrate.

This has been offered as an alternative to having the cavities filled. One year later, the results are promising.

Warm Springs clinic Pediatric Dentist Dr. Frank Mendoza updated Tribal Council on the program last week.

"I've never seen anything like this in my 32 years of experience," Dr. Mendoza said.

The clinic will have a clearer picture of the results of the silver nitrate program in another year, he said.

Meanwhile, the first year appears to have a big success. The program in time could serve as a model program for other IHS dental clinics, Dr. Mendoza said.

Stopping tooth decay

Over the past year, the Warm Springs dental clinic has treated cavities of 84 young tribal members with the silver nitrate process. The process for each patient involves up to five visits. Over 400 patient-visits at the dental clinic have involved the silver nitrate application, Dr. Mendoza said.

More than four-fifths of the patients treated with the silver nitrate process showed no further tooth decay, he said.

Eighty-four percent of the patients who had at least three treatments showed no further decay, Mendoza said.

The silver nitrate process is effective, and brings another benefit: Because there is no drilling and filling involved, there is no pain or anaesthesia for the patient.

The problem that the procedure is addressing is a serious one on the reservation, where up to 90 percent of young children show signs of tooth decay by late pre-school age.

About half of the kids have to have in-hospital tooth restoration or extraction.

The silver nitrate process shows promise in greatly addressing this issue, Dr.

Mendoza said.

Being used again

Silver nitrate is highly effective in treating the bacteria that are the cause of tooth cavities.

"Silver nitrate has been used for over 100 years in the U.S.," Dr. Mendoza said. "This was the main way to treat cavities until the 1950s."

Silver nitrate is now being used again as the initial treatment—especially for young children, so that they do not have to experience the pain of getting tooth fillings.

Other dentists treating children in Central Oregon are also now using silver nitrate medication, Mendoza said.

The process

Silver nitrate can be used for almost any tooth that has a cavity, though it works best when the tooth decay is not too deep.

When applied early in the decay process, this can completely stop the decay in that cavity so it will not get deeper.

Usually it takes several applications of the medication to eliminate the infection in the tooth that is causing the decay. However, it takes only

Options after treatment

Applying the silver nitrate to the tooth cavity will kill all the infection, and will turn the cavity very dark in color: This is good.

It means the cavity will not get deeper. At this point there are options for the parents of the child:

Option no. 1

Fill the tooth cavity with a material called glass ionomer cement (GIC) that the Warm Springs Dental Clinic has been using for several years.

The GIC is tooth colored, and acts like a fast-acting glue or cement. A few minutes after the GIC has been put into the tooth cavity, it becomes almost as hard as

the tooth enamel.

If all the tooth decay has been stopped, most of the time this does not require the child to receive a shot to make the gums numb.

The GIC is applied like a paste to fill the cavity, and this takes the dentist only a couple of minutes.

In many cases, this GIC will remain in the tooth cavity until the child naturally has the permanent teeth come in later.

If the GIC needs to be replaced later, this can also be done in just a few minutes with no shots.

Option no. 2

Do not do any additional treatment.

about five minutes for each application, and the child does not get any shots.

This new program is being coordinated by Lula Smith, Expanded Functions

Dental Auxiliary (EFDX).

Contact Lula or Dr. Mendoza at the Warm Springs Dental Clinic at 541-553-2462, if you have any questions.

Update on IHS transition

Last summer the Warm Springs clinic made a transition to better serve patients at the clinic.

This transition has meant that the primary physician at the clinic no longer provides medical care when the patient is admitted to a hospital.

The patient in the hospital is treated instead by another physician, such as a Madras physician, working closely with the Warm Springs provider.

"This was a big transition for us," said Carol Prevost, clinic director.

The change so far has been good, while there is always room for improvement, Prevost said at Tribal Council last week.

The purpose of the change is to allow the Warm Springs physicians to focus on outpatient care at the Warm Springs Clinic.

Tribes happy with state decision about coal-export project at river

Tribal leaders from the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission are applauding a state agency decision regarding a coal export project at the Columbia River.

The Oregon Department of State Land rejected Ambre Energy's permit application for its proposed Morrow Pacific coal export project.

"Today's landmark decision reflects what is in the best interest of the region, not a company's pocketbook," said Carlos Smith, CRITFC chairman.

"This decision is one that we can all celebrate," Smith said. "It reaffirms the tribal treaty right to fish. It's in the best interest of the Columbia Basin's salmon populations, and our communities."

"It is a reflection of what is best for those who would be forced to live with the consequences of Ambre's proposal, not what is best for those who would profit from it. This is the beginning of the end for this toxic threat—the tribes will stand with the state to protect its sound decision."

Coffee Shop for Sale

For sale by the Warm Springs Community Action Team. \$14,750 minimum bid. Turn-key business-ready to open immediately. Call 541-553-3148. Bidding begins at noon this Wednesday, August 20, and ends of Wednesday, Aug. 27 at 4 p.m. Payment must be received by Wednesday, Sept. 10.

20'x10' building, in very good shape, approximately 15 years old. Plenty of cabinet, drawer and counter space, with a 3-bay sink. Comes complete with La Marzocco Espresso machine, two refrigerators, ice cream freezer, microwave, toaster oven and more.

If interested, a showing can be arranged. Please call Lori Switzler, Gerald Danzuka or Chris Watson at the above phone number. Only serious offers considered. Buyers must show evidence of adequate financial capacity, either through cash on hand or loan, to make purchase.

Farmers market on campus

The Warm Springs Farmers Market is now open on Fridays as well as Saturdays, from 10 a.m.—4 p.m.

The market is held on campus on the corner of Paiute Avenue and Wasco Street.

Vendors are invited to set up for free. The new market managers are Jamie Scott and Gerald Danzuka.

They can be contacted at the Community Action Team Office, 541-553-3148.

Back to School yard sale

The Warm Springs Recreation Department will host the **Back to School Yard Sale** this Saturday, August 23, at the Community Center front yard. Set-up starts at 9 a.m., and the sale is from 1-4 p.m. Call 541-553-3243 for more information.

Big yard sale on Saturday

There will be a yard sale this Saturday, August 23, at JP and Anna Patt's, 2234 Elliot Heights Rd., 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Futon, daybed, TV & electronics, fishing gear, household items, and lots more. Don't miss out!



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Voc Rehab in Warm Springs has orientations every Monday at 3 p.m. at their office in the industrial park. Orientations are also held on Tuesdays at 3pm at the Community Counseling Center.

"No job too big or too small."

Contact Anthony Davis Jr. 541-460-1664

Handyman & Lawn Services

Next deadline to submit items for publication in the Spilyay Tymoo is Friday, August, 29. Thank you!

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