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Friends and Neighbors: Dr. Keith McGruder

PATRICK ABANATHY

RENO GAZETTE-JOURNAL

Posted: 4/27/2007

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Yerington Paiute Tribal Health Clinic's dentistry service is now fully staffed and Dr. Keith McGruder cannot wait to bring only the best service to residents both Native and not.

"I'm here to service my patients," he said. "It's all about patient care."

The San Francisco native began in the U.S. Army as a non-commissioned officer with positions including lab specialist, combat medic and airborne. He later returned to the Bay Area as a reserve commissioned officer and completed his bachelor of art's degree in Black Studies with emphasis in social and behavioral sciences.

McGruder holds two degrees in dentistry including a master of science in physiology and biophysics from Finch University of Health Sciences/The Chicago Medical School and a Doctor of Dental Surgery from University of Detroit Mercy, School of Dentistry. Following completion of two post-graduate residency programs, McGruder has been practicing as a public dentist providing full scope dental services. At the Tribal Health Clinic, his intentions are no less.

"I am ready to provide the best dentistry possible for all native and non-native community members," he said. "The patients are my passion."

The Clinic's overall outreach effort is to bring in all members of the community including Medicaid, private insurance and self-pay patients. In the past, McGruder has helped set up dental programs including "How to improve Oral Health Behavior Changes with Early Intervention & Innovative Patient Education" and, as diabetes dental director at Ft. Defiance Indian Hospital, "How to Improve Oral Health and Live with Periodontal Disease."

McGruder currently lives in Gardnerville with his fiancée Nicole Tradup with a wedding date set for the summer. He is also father to Monet LaChelle, who resides in North Carolina with her mother. When not at work, McGruder enjoys just about all sports, biking and theater.

He has only been at the YPT Clinic nearly two weeks and future plans are already in the works. Aside from bringing in more patients, McGruder has a goal to increase their current two-chair office to between four and six chairs.

Said McGruder; "It's only going to get better."

Zoom [+]



PATRICK ABANATHY/MASON VALLEY NEWS

FOR THE PATIENTS: The Yerington Paiute Tribe's new full scope Dentist Dr. Keith McGruder says he is ready to serve all members of the community both Native and not.

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