

# IMPRESSIONS

2017 Campbell Dr. ■ Torrington, Wyoming 82240 ■ (307) 532-4448

2024

## Technology in Dentistry

### What is New in Dental Technology?

In an ever changing world of technology, the dental industry is no different. Part of our mission at Platte River Family Dentistry is to provide progressive excellence to our patients. In order for us to do so, we take pride in seeking continued education to stay up-to-date on the latest proven techniques in the dental profession. There is a wide variety of modern advancements in dentistry and in order to best serve our patients we have started to incorporate many of these systems into our daily practice. Some of the new technologies we have integrated are Nomad Radiology units, an intra-oral scanner, and orthodontic clear aligners.

### Hand-held Radiology Units

These radiology units are small, hand-held X-ray devices that allow the dental team to take radiographs in an efficient manner. With the previous style of radiographic technology mounted to the wall, the components are bulky and hard to maneuver. This can make it difficult to position and capture an adequate radiograph. Because of these challenges, retakes of radiographs are more likely to occur. With the Nomad's ability to position the radiology unit in multiple positions, fewer radiographs are taken and as such, exposure to radiation is significantly reduced. The technology of the Nomad itself also considerably lessens the radiation exposure as compared to conventional radiology. All of which provide a safer procedure for the patient and team member exposing the radiograph. The quality of the image taken is also superior as the Nomad takes exceptional radiographs to provide the best diagnostic information a 2D image can provide.



### Intra-oral Scanner

An intra-oral (IO) scanner is a camera that takes multiple pictures of an area and pieces those pictures together into a 3D model to be used for a variety of purposes. By taking the IO scan, it can provide valuable information to both the patient and dental team. The most common treatment we use the IO scanner for is crown and bridge preparation appointments. If applicable, the scanner will replace a traditional impression of the preparation which can greatly increase patient comfort while providing real-time feedback and learning opportunities for the patient. This allows the doctor to efficiently diagnose the preparation and make

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modifications (if needed) while the patient is still chairside. Following the appointment, the patient can see what was done to prepare the tooth which provides valuable education and gives a unique view of their teeth. The scanner can also be used in our new patient exams to take a complete mouth scan and help patients visualize how their teeth align, signs of instability and concern, gum tissue health, and much more. Another great indication for using the IO scanner is helping to create a better patient experience during orthodontic clear aligner therapy.

## Clear Aligner Orthodontic Treatment

Orthodontics have been a proud staple of our practice for many years. With advancements in technology, clear aligner orthodontics are becoming more common. These aligners work by having a series of custom fitting trays apply minor pressure to the patient's teeth over a period of time. Each set of trays are typically worn for 2 weeks and then a new set of trays is delivered. This continuous light force applied to the

teeth is the same mechanics used in traditional straight wire orthodontic treatment. The obvious advantage is the clear trays are much less noticeable than silver brackets, however there are some limitations to their use. Clear aligners are best used when ideal skeletal positioning is already present and only minor tooth movement is necessary. Patients with moderate to severe crowding or spacing and significant bite discrepancies are best suited for traditional straight wire orthodontics. Fortunately, our dental team is trained in both straight wire orthodontics and clear aligners to provide beautiful smiles and the best care to our patients.



# Cook's Corner



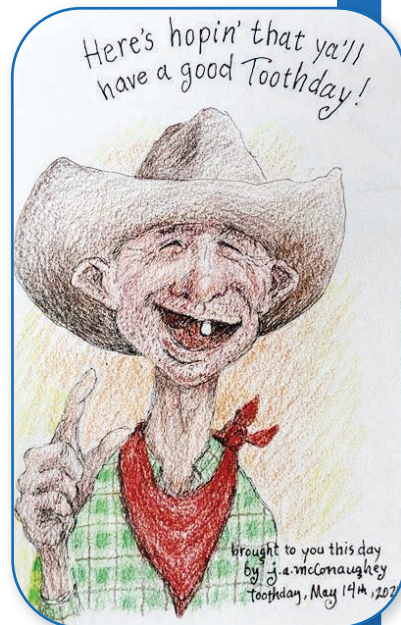
## Easy Pumpkin Cake

### INGREDIENTS

- 2-1/2 C All Purpose Flour
- 1 Cup vegetable oil
- 3 large eggs
- 1 (15oz) can pumpkin puree
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 2 1/2 cups white sugar
- 1 tsp baking soda
- 1 tsp ground nutmeg
- 1 tsp ground allspice
- 1 tsp ground cinnamon
- 1 tsp ground cloves
- 1/4 tsp salt
- 1 cup chopped walnuts (optional)

### DIRECTIONS

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees F. Grease 10-in Bundt or tube pan
2. Blend oil, beaten eggs, pumpkin and vanilla together
3. Sift flour, sugar, baking soda, ground nutmeg, ground allspice, ground cinnamon, ground cloves and salt together. Add flour mixture to pumpkin mixture and stir until just combined. Fold in chopped walnuts; pour batter into prepared pan.
4. Bake in oven until a toothpick inserted in middle comes out clean (about 1 hour). Let cake cool in pan for 5 minutes, then turn out onto a plate and sprinkle with confectioner's sugar.



Drawing courtesy by:  
Jack McConaughy



# CONTINUE EDUCATION (CE) SPOTLIGHT:



In June of this year Dr. Lucas and two of our dental assistants, Tisha and Sahala, went to Dallas, TX to complete a course in advanced orthodontic training through Gerety Orthodontics. At this course they gained insight on our orthodontic procedures and processes.

Dr. Lucas completed the Gerety Comprehensive Orthodontic Education Program. This program has provided him the training to perform orthodontic treatment using both clear aligners and traditional brackets.



## Other CE Our Staff Has Completed This Year:

### Denver Midwinter (January)

Our staff took a variety of classes over the course of two days to improve our individual responsibilities throughout the office.

### Chicago Dental Meeting (February)

The doctors attended the annual dental meeting and took CE courses to better understand new technology, prosthetics, and restorative treatment.

### State Dental (June)

Our office spent two days in Cheyenne, WY, participating in classes to expand our knowledge in opioids, root canal therapy, crown treatment, and periodontal disease.



Dentists: Dr. Britt Marsh  
Dr. Lance Lucas  
Hygienists: Kylee Kisler  
Gabrielle Woehrl  
Dental Assistants: Julie Youtz  
Valerie Grant  
Sahala Anderson  
Tisha Duffield  
Appointment Sec.: Tracy Flock  
Office Manager: Leslie Gubbels



**OFFICE HOURS**

8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.  
Monday - Thursday



## Congratulations to the New Dads!!

Outside of our office, our doctors families continue to grow. In October of 2023, Dr. Britt Marsh and his wife Brenna welcomed home their beautiful daughter Gianna Claire. Gianna has enjoyed true brotherly love from her older siblings, Finley and McCafferty.

Dr. Lucas will be adding another child to their family this coming November. Dr. Lucas and his wife Paige are having their third child. Baby Lucas will be welcomed home by their two children, Maximilian and Josie.

We are very excited for the new additions to our office family.



## Tooth Trivia

- \* Teeth are as unique as fingerprints, and each person has a unique bite. This is why teeth are important in forensics.
- \* Teeth are similar to bones as they contain nerves, blood vessels, and calcium. However, bones produce marrow, while teeth do not.
- \* Baby teeth start to develop within 6 weeks into pregnancy.
- \* Giraffes have 32 teeth, but only have bottom teeth. Instead of top teeth, they have a thick layer of tissue called a "dental pad."
- \* Tooth decay is one of the most common diseases, second to the common cold.
- \* Most right handed people will chew their food on the right side, and left handed people will chew their food on the left side.
- \* The average person spends 38 days brushing their teeth during their lifetime.
- \* Poor dental health can lead to serious health problems such as heart disease and diabetes.
- \* Like trees, dolphins teeth have rings inside them that tell how old they are. Dolphins also do not have any muscles in their jaw, so they swallow their food whole.
- \* Snails have thousands of microscopic teeth on their tongue that they use to scrape and cut food.