

# Bringing the OUTSIDE INSIDE

## Walls begin to rise around courtyard

Until this week, the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center's interior courtyard was just a dirt-filled hole in a concrete slab. Now workers have begun framing the walls around this signature element of the building's design.

The courtyard will be a roughly triangular refuge, shielded from the wind but open to the sky. Visitors will enjoy a soothing garden of native plants, which also will be visible through corridor windows.

Other workers have begun covering the wellness center's outside walls with a product called DensGlass. It's made of gypsum sandwiched between fiberglass mats, and it provides a durable layer that resists moisture and mold. (Who knew our little construction update would be so educational?)

### Also this week

Plywood roof sheathing now covers the medical clinic



**Top:** Walls rise around the wellness center's interior courtyard.

**Above:** Yellow fiberglass-coated gypsum wallboard covers the exterior walls, providing strength and resisting moisture.

**Photos by Lon Matheny**

section of the building.

The main entry drive has been excavated and backfilled. For the next several days, the rather noisy vibratory roller will start running at 8 a.m. to compact the soil.

Interior office walls are being

framed in some areas.

Elsewhere, roof joists are being installed.

### Coming next

More rock will be hauled in for the parking lot and for the road that circles the site's east side. The added rock will help control construction dust.

# Expect more rocking and rolling

As part of the effort to control dust on the wellness center worksite, contractors are spreading rock on the future parking lot. That's good. The downside is, they need to compact the rock with a vibratory roller — a machine that does exactly what its name suggests.

So Kilkich residents can expect some noise and shaking for the next several workdays. The machine will work Wednesday, Sept. 2, and

Thursday, Sept. 3. Then comes a four-day holiday weekend before the work resumes next week.

We'll do our best to keep you updated via text message and the K'wen 'inish-ha Facebook Group, but we don't always know what each day will bring. We apologize in advance for any disturbance or inconvenience.

## Meet the Pharm Team

Coquille Tribal Pharmacy staff members paid a visit to their future work area this week. From left: Clerk Kelsey Morris, Manager/pharmacist Caryn Mickelson, Technician Samantha McGowan, and Technician Ibis Osuna.

Photo by  
Lon Matheny



## Come visit

Want to see the construction site for yourself? We're offering limited tours to tribal families and Kilkich residents on Friday, Sept. 18. For details, please send an email [here](#).

## Here's what else is shaking at KWC

**Roof sheathing** is finished above the medical clinic and may get finished over the pharmacy today.

**Interior stud work** is about half finished in the medical area and getting started in dental.

**Sheet metal** workers arrived this

week to begin duct work for the heating and cooling systems.

**Densglass** continues to be applied to the wellness center's exterior walls. It's a sturdy, water-resistant product made of gypsum between two layers of fiberglass.

This weekly update is produced by the tribe's Communications Team. [Email us](#)



# Where there's smoke ...

It's a hazy week at Kilkich, but construction of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center is making clear progress. Here's where things are happening:

**Underfoot** — A lot of rock has been spread on the ground, and more is coming still. The rock is a big factor in controlling dust in the air. (But with all the wildfire smoke, the improvement may be hard to see.)

**Overhead** — Roofing work has begun. The goal is to be “dried in” before the rains arrive.

**Indoors** — Office walls are being framed, and drywall (AKA Sheetrock) is being hung.

**On the road** — Workers are preparing to pour concrete curbs and gutters for the fire lane connecting the wellness center to Miluk Drive.

**In the airways** — Ductwork is being installed for the heating and air conditioning system.

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**Watts next:** Electricians will return next week to resume work on the electrical system.



## Photos

**Top:** Roofing materials are neatly deployed atop the wellness center building. In the background, wildfire smoke darkens the sky.

**Middle:** The building's future main entrance frames a passing workman.

**Bottom:** Pieces of ductwork await assembly in the medical clinic area.

**Photos by**  
**Lon Matheny**



# Many hands in motion

## Multiple trades share wellness center site

As the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center drives toward an on-time completion in May 2021, design-build contractor S+B James Construction is choreographing a swarm of subcontractors.

Three separate construction trades shared elbow room Wednesday in the center's future medical area. While Van Row Mechanical of Central Point plumbed vent pipes, workers from Coos Bay's Kyle Electric hung junction boxes and conduit. Nearby, Roseburg's Umpqua Sheet Metal installed air ducts.

They aren't the only crews on the site this week. Concrete workers were busy Wednesday at the Miluk Drive back entrance. Other crews were putting up stud walls inside and weather-resistant sheathing outside.

Another subcontractor will arrive next week to install fire sprinklers. Next week also will bring preparations for pouring concrete curbs and sidewalks.

### One thing and another

The twin plagues of 2020 — COVID-19 and wildfire — have both hindered and helped the project. Fires chased a few construction workers from their homes. And S+B James has had to dodge pandemic-related shortages by stockpiling materials in advance.

On the plus side, a couple of subcontractors have phoned to say wildfires canceled their projects elsewhere in the state. Could they show up and start early at Kilkich?

Project Superintendent Butch Popp welcomed one of them on Wednesday with an added inducement:

"We've got the cleanest air in the state right now," he said.



### Photos

**Top**, concrete workers finish a curb at the wellness center's secondary entrance on Miluk Drive today.

**Bottom**, workers hurry to enclose the roof before the rainy season.



# Earth, Wind & Fire



Um, sorry, no. The classic soul/funk band is not making an appearance at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center this week.

But the three elements of the band's name are definitely in play as the job progresses:

**Earth** — On the grounds outside the future wellness center, workers are “prepping” for concrete curbs and gutters. Pouring starts Oct. 5.

**Wind** — The heating and ventilation crew is nearly finished installing the air ducts in the center's Zone 1, future home of the medical clinic and pharmacy. They'll start Zone 2 (dental) on Monday.

**Fire** — Just below the roof, a subcontractor is installing iron sprinkler pipes for fire protection.

## What's shaking

Contractors plan to run the vibratory roller for a while on Thursday, after 10 a.m. Expect some noise and vibration.



## Photos

**Far left:** On a scissor lift high above the job site's floor, a worker from Medford-based Firestop Co. installs sprinkler lines.

**Left:** A rock base is being spread this week for concrete curbs and gutters that will be poured in October.