

Moving day!

Tote that antibiotic! Lift that statin!

Pharmacy staff members moved to their new home on Wednesday, becoming the first occupants of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center.

They're ready to begin serving patients in their new quarters, but patients won't see the inside just yet. Until the whole building is finished, the pharmacy crew will meet patients at the old clinic.

Contractors expect the building to be "substantially complete" by April 26. The other departments can move in soon after that. May 25 is the tentative date to begin seeing patients in the new building.

Meanwhile, crews are working on paint, concrete, flooring, a sewer line and other details. The medical area is newly finished and locked up to await occupancy.

Cover your ears

Some concrete work has to be redone next week. That means jackhammers and concrete saws.



Photos

Top: Tribal employees Elijah Chisley (left), Matt Brown and Caryn Mickelson (on stairs) move supplies from the temporary pharmacy building. Tribal police Officer Matt Parrish stands watch at right as pharmaceuticals are transported.

Left: Contractors install pharmacy shelving Tuesday.

Below: Exterior paint colors perk up the wellness center. The yellow on the window frames is primer.

Photos by Lon Matheny





Towing zone

With the new pharmacy completed and open for business, a crew hauls away the portable building that has served the tribe since 2017. Its departure makes way for a concrete pad that will support the wellness center's emergency generator.

Tick. Tick. Tick.

Contractors check off steps to completion

One by one, stages of the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center's construction are winding down.

The pharmacy and the medical clinic are finished. The dental clinic is nearly wrapped up, with exam chairs and equipment set to arrive next week.

Community Services should be finished next week, too. And the administration area is close. Its cabinets and counters will be assembled soon.

What's left?

Curbs, gutters and sidewalks are still being poured. That will last a while..

The *porte cochere* (a covered drive-up) is being wired for lights.

Decorative cedar planks, milled from the tribe's own logs, await installation.

And lots more details need to be tidied up.

Not counting the already-open pharmacy, moving in should start around the end of April.

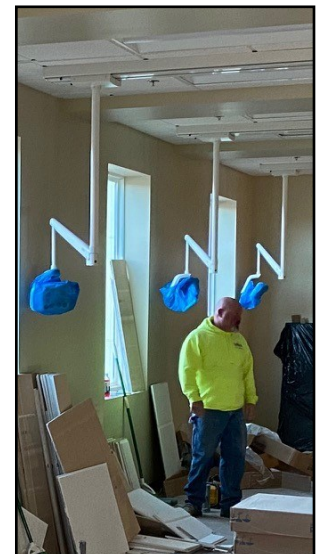


Guaranteed bright smiles

On the left, a worker from a dental equipment supplier installs a ceiling track to support an exam area's overhead light.

Later, at right, a row of newly installed floodlights hangs where dental chairs soon will welcome patients. Blue fabric coverings protect the fixtures.

Photos by Lon Matheny



Circular logic

Sleek furnishings and efficient equipment in the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center testify to the Coquille Tribe's vision. But the front door is all about heritage.

This week, workers installed the curved framework of the wellness center's main entrance. The glass doors and sidelights are still to come, but the doorway already mimics a plankhouse's circular portal.

Meanwhile:

Exam chairs and other dental gear are being installed.

Cabinets and counters are in place. Next up, windowsills.

Vibrations underfoot attest to progress on the parking lot. Expect blacktop in early April.

Eight-foot plywood triangles, evoking a traditional basket pattern, will be attached Thursday to the underside of the drive-up area's sheltering roof.

An early completion looms closer every day.

"We've got our eye on the end of April," said project Superintendent Butch Popp. "And by golly, we're gonna give it our best."



Top: Installers attached the curved framework of the wellness center's main entrance on Tuesday.

Middle: A view down the main corridor shows how the forking hallways trace the shape of a traditional fishing spear. The medical clinic is on the right, dental on the left. The big windows in the center admit light from the triangular interior courtyard, which is open to the sky.

Bottom: The dental clinic's cabinet doors feature translucent panes encasing dried grass.

Closing in on the finish line

Construction will begin winding down soon at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center. For now, though, it's still a busy place:

- The concrete crew just poured sidewalks and curbs near the main entrance.
- Starting Thursday, they'll prepare to pour the slab for the covered drive-up.
- And next week they'll fill the gap along Miluk Drive where some previous work had to be torn out.
- The irrigation line around the property was finished today.
- More siding is going up.
- A new access road in front of the old health center has a temporary gravel surface.
- Barn-style doors will be installed Thursday for the Community Gathering Room.



The concrete crew finishes smoothing a stretch of sidewalk near the main entrance. (Photo courtesy of Butch Popp, S+B James Construction)

Our first patient

The tribe's communication staff needed some photos for a wellness center brochure. So 6-year-old Paisley Chambers agreed to pose with Dr. Roger Willis in the new pediatric exam room. (Her mom had to promise she wouldn't get a shot.)

That makes Paisley the very first person to visit a health-care provider at the Ko-Kwel Wellness Center. Thanks, Paisley!

